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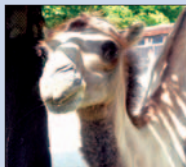
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After taking time off, players face uphill battle to reintegrate

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CRISIS IN IRAQ

US aid unlikely to break militant hold

Iraq must mend sectarian rifts to turn the tide in fight against Islamic State, analysts say

By JOHN VANDIVER
AND NANCY MONTGOMERY
Stars and Stripes

The U.S. is poised to ramp up military support for Iraq if a new, inclusive government takes shape. Even that won't be enough to beat back rampaging Islamic militants unless something extraordinary happens: Iraq mends age-old sectarian rifts, experts say.

"A lot of things are going to have to go right to staunch the flow of everything that has gone wrong," said Patrick Skinner, a former CIA case officer with operational experience in Iraq.

ANALYSIS

"There is a very good chance that the construct of Iraq will fall apart."

So far, it is far from clear that Iraq is capable of overcoming those divisions to field a unified, effective fighting force.

U.S. airstrikes can have only limited effect against militants of the Islamic State group, who have taken control of large swathes of the country, including major cities such as Mosul.

Despite increased U.S. military involvement, the militant group could be an on-the-ground reality in Iraq for years to come, analysts warn.

SEE AID ON PAGE 4

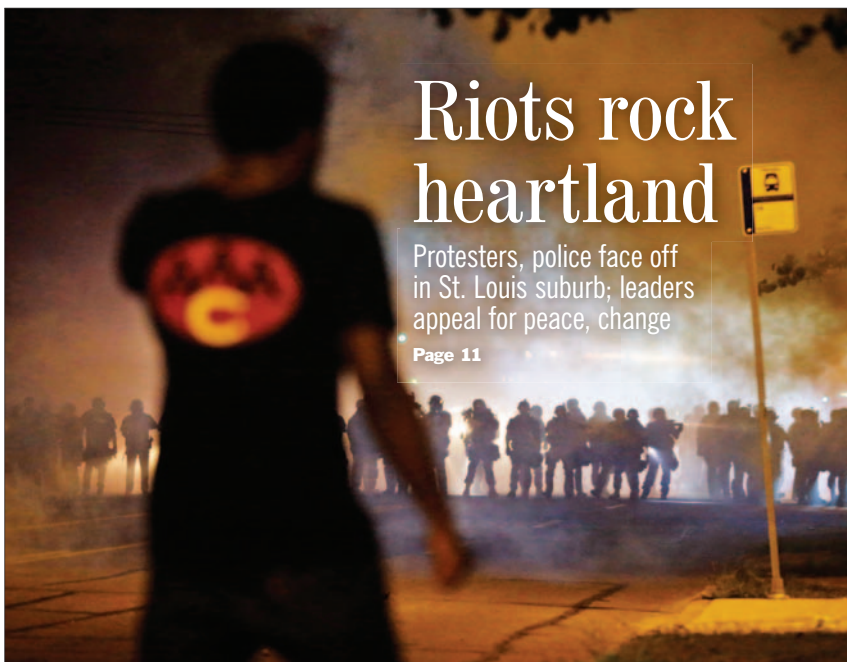
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Obama: US broke mountain siege, but airstrikes to continue
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Riots rock heartland

Protesters, police face off in St. Louis suburb; leaders appeal for peace, change

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DAVID CARSON, ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH/AP

A man watches police through a cloud of smoke during a clash with protesters in Ferguson, Mo., on Wednesday night. Riots in the St. Louis suburb rocked by racial unrest over the death of an unarmed black teenager turned violent, with some people lobbing Molotov cocktails and other objects at police who responded with smoke bombs and tear gas.

QUOTE OF THE DAY

"It's not just how much rain fell; it's how fast it fell. We're talking about billions and billions of gallons of water, and it all has to go somewhere."

— Accuweather senior meteorologist Jack Boston on unusually heavy rains that soaked communities across the U.S.

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3. "Hannibal Procedure": Israeli tactic to stop soldier capture criticized
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MILITARY

1st Cav troops headed to Poland, Baltics

By JON HARPER
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — Approximately 600 soldiers from the Army's 1st Brigade, 1st Cavalry Division will deploy to Poland and the Baltic states to help reassure European allies who feel threatened by Russian military moves, the Pentagon announced Wednesday.

The troops and their equipment — which includes M-1 Abrams tanks, infantry fighting vehicles and armored personnel carriers — will go to Europe in October for a three-month series of training exercises.

The soldiers, based at Fort Hood, Texas, are replacing about 600 paratroopers from the Army's 173rd Airborne Brigade, which is based in Vicenza, Italy. The "Sky Soldiers" have been conducting exercises with Poland, Latvia, Lithuania and Estonia since April as part of ongoing Operation Atlantic Resolve.

"These land training exercises ... help foster interoperability through small-unit and leader training," Pentagon spokesman Col. Steve Warren said.

In addition to ground forces, the U.S. has also sent F-16 combat aircraft to Poland and participated in NATO air policing missions

over the Baltics.

The exercises came at the request of host nations that fear a resurgent Russia, which annexed the Crimea region of Ukraine earlier this year and continues to support a pro-Russia separatist movement in eastern Ukraine.

For months, the Russian military has massed forces along the border with Ukraine and has provided advanced weaponry and other assistance to the rebels. In recent days, Moscow has announced its intention to send a convoy of trucks into Ukraine to deliver what it says is humanitarian aid to separatist-held areas under pressure from Ukrainian

government forces.

Kiev has said it will allow Russian humanitarian aid into the affected region, but only if it is delivered by the International Red Cross. Russia wants to deliver the supplies directly.

Ukrainian and Western officials are concerned that the alleged humanitarian mission might be a ruse to enable Russia to provide more military help to the separatists.

On Tuesday, Warren warned that Russian aid convoys could be a "Trojan horse."

harper.jon@stripes.com
Twitter: @JHarperStripes

Russia, Ukraine play game of chicken over aid convoy

By ALEXANDER ROSLYAKOV
The Associated Press

KAMENSK-SHAKHTINSKY, Russia — In a diplomatic game of chicken, a large Russian aid convoy rolled toward the Ukrainian border on Thursday — but it was heading toward a crossing controlled by pro-Russia rebels instead of a government post as Ukraine had demanded.

Ukraine's government threatened to block the convoy if the cargo could not be inspected and announced it was organizing its own aid shipment to the war-wrecked separatist region of Luhansk.

The Russian convoy of more than 200 vehicles had been parked at a military depot in the southern Russian city of Voronezh since late Tuesday amid disagreement over how and where the aid could be delivered to eastern Ukraine,



PAVEL GOLOVIN/AP

A convoy of white trucks with purported humanitarian aid travels Thursday about 17 miles from the Ukrainian border in the Rostov-on-Don region, Russia.

where government troops are battling armed separatists.

On Thursday, the white-tarped trucks, some flying the red flag of Moscow and accompanied by military vehicles, drove down a winding highway through sunflower fields and green hills, then turned west toward the rebel-held border crossing of Izvaryne.

The trucks pulled off about 17 miles from the border and parked in a large field where dozens of beige tents had been set up. Drivers in matching delivery outfits got out and relaxed, making it unclear whether the convoy would cross into Ukraine later in the day or spend the night on Russian soil.

The route suggested Russia

was intent on not abiding by a tentative agreement to deliver aid to a government-controlled border checkpoint in the Kharkiv region, where it could more easily be inspected by Ukraine and the Red Cross. Moscow has insisted it coordinated the dispatch of the goods, which it says range from baby food and canned meat to portable generators and sleeping bags, with the International Committee of the Red Cross.

Andriy Lysenko, a spokesman for Ukraine's National Security and Defense Council, said Ukraine would be forced to act if the Russians refused to allow a Red Cross inspection of its cargo.

"In this case, movement of the convoy will be blocked with all

the forces available," he said.

Although the Izvaryne border crossing remained in rebel hands, areas south of Luhansk have been bitterly fought over and the location of forces is in constant flux. It's unclear whether all the towns and villages from the border to Luhansk are still controlled by rebels.

ICRC spokeswoman Anastasia Isyuk said talks between the organization, Ukraine and Russia were continuing but she could not confirm where the Russian convoy was headed.

"The plans keep changing, the discussions are going ahead and we will not confirm for sure until we know an agreement has been reached," Isyuk said in Geneva.

Russia's Foreign Ministry says the convoy has 262 vehicles, including about 200 trucks carrying aid.

Russian President Vladimir Putin, meanwhile, addressed hundreds of lawmakers Thursday in the Black Sea resort of Yalta in Crimea, which was annexed by Russia from Ukraine in March. He did not speak specifically about the convoy.

In a relatively subdued address, Putin said Russia's goal was "to stop bloodshed in Ukraine as soon as possible." Moscow should improve life in Ukraine "without building a wall from the West," he said, but asserted that Russia would "not allow anyone to treat us with arrogance."

Correction

The story on problems with shipping private vehicles in Thursday's editions should have said that the laid-off workers sharing frustrations were with the previous contractor, American Auto Logistics, and that Sabrina Tunis' vehicle was delayed five weeks.

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MILITARY

Abdullah aly warns of 'one-sided' recount

By PAMELA CONSTABLE

The Washington Post

KABUL, Afghanistan — A powerful Afghan governor and former militia leader who had threatened mass protests in the wake of the disputed presidential runoff in June warned Wednesday of a "civil uprising" if the ongoing ballot recount proves biased and his candidate, Abdullah Abdullah, is not named the winner.

Attah Mohammad Noor, 50, had not been seen in public since the election controversy and was rumored to have fled Afghanistan. He came to the capital Wednesday and said he had been away undergoing surgery for shrapnel wounds suffered during the Afghan-Soviet conflict.

Noor immediately issued a blunt chal-

lenge to the costly, high-stakes process undertaken by Afghan and international officials to salvage the country's first democratic transfer of power since the overthrow of the Taliban regime in 2001.

"If the vote recount is one-sided or fraudulent, we will not bow down and accept the results," he said in an interview. "We do not want a crisis, but we will defend the rights of our people. We will have a big civil uprising. ... We will occupy government buildings and institutions. ... We will boycott the process, and we will not recognize the next government because it will have no legitimacy."

His comments came a day after Abdullah's rival, Ashraf Ghani, appeared to back away from a power-sharing relationship

outlined in a joint-governing agreement both sides reached in June at U.S. urging, saying, "Dual authority is not possible."

Noor made similar threats in June after preliminary results showed Abdullah, who came in first in an initial round of voting in April but did not win a majority, losing to Ghani in the runoff. Abdullah alleged massive fraud, and tensions mounted.

Although Noor said he and other members of Abdullah's team want to be "reliable partners" for the international community, he also made it clear that he does not trust the foreign-backed vote audit and that he sees himself as an avenger of the millions of Afghans who voted for Abdullah and feel they have been cheated of victory twice in five years.

In the 2009 presidential election, Abdullah was the main challenger to incumbent Hamid Karzai. As in 2014, Abdullah appeared to be winning, but there were major charges of election fraud. In the end, he agreed to withdraw his candidacy to avoid a volatile runoff, and Karzai was sworn in for his second five-year term.

This time, Noor said, "everyone knew he [Abdullah] won the honorable vote, but the triangle of the government, [Karzai's] palace and election commission did fraud. We accepted the option of the recount, but it must be fair. Otherwise the sacrifice of the voters will have been in vain. If it is not fair, if there is still fraud, we will not accept it."

He did not say how he would gauge the fairness of the audit.

Work finally begins on building Marine Corps runway on Okinawa

By MATTHEW M. BURKE
AND CHIYOMI SUMIDA

Stars and Stripes

CAMP FOSTER, Okinawa — Workers began installing buoys and floats in the waters off Camp Schwab on Thursday, marking the start of construction that will one day facilitate the move of Marine Corps Air Station Futenma to the northern part of the island, as well as the relocation of thousands of U.S. Marines to Guam as part of the Pacific realignment.

Small-scale protests occurred in front of the Marine Corps base and at the nearby Henoko fishing port as workers set up the boundary to the planned reclamation project in Oura Bay.

'I will stand firm on my belief that we would never allow to have a new military base, neither on land nor at sea. I am resolved to continue to fight against the government's policy.'

Susumu Inamine
Nago mayor

The landfill for the airfield has been a sore spot for locals who fear damage to the bay's diverse marine ecosystem.

Japanese officials declined to say when the survey would commence, but Japanese media reported it could happen as soon as Monday.

Nago Mayor Susumu Inamine criticized Tokyo for moving forward with the military project.

"Forcibly conducting a survey for landfill work against the will of residents violates both human rights and rich biodiversity of the region," Inamine said in a statement. "I will stand firm on my belief that we would never allow to have a new military base, neither on land nor at sea. I am resolved to continue to fight against the government's policy."

Okinawa Gov. Hirokazu Nakaima's office declined to comment. Maritime Self-Defense Force and coast guard ships were out in force as work began to install the buoys about 7:30 a.m. Thursday. At the same time, protesters held signs and took refuge from an unrelenting sun under a blue tarp on the sidewalk in front of Camp Schwab.

At Henoko, longtime activists against the move were subdued but vowed to continue the fight, resigned to the fact that they may have lost this particular battle.

"We may not be able to stop the landfill work, but the losers are the mainland and its government," said Osamu Taira, 82, an Okinawa-born pastor who has been involved in protest movement for 18 years. "Construction of a new military base on Okinawa will trigger Okinawa's departure from Japan. Independence will become an option."

The protesters criticized Tokyo for the burden placed upon Okinawa by hosting a disproportionate number of U.S. military forces. The approximately 50,000 U.S. troops based in Japan, about 30,000 are located on the small island prefecture, which is the poorest in Japan. They called the runway and planned relocation of the Marine aircraft carrier to their part of the island undemocratic.

Marine Corps officials did not respond to a request for comment by press time.

The issues behind the protest movement on Okinawa are deeply rooted in Okinawan history.

Once an independent kingdom, the island was occupied by the Chinese, the Japanese and the



KYODO NEWS/AP

Workers set up a no-go zone in the sea off Nago, Okinawa, on Thursday. Japanese officials said buoys are being floated off the southernmost island of Okinawa in one of the first steps in the relocation of an American military base.

U.S. Many still harbor resentment for civilian casualties at the end of World War II and the Japanese decision to abandon the island and fortify the mainland after America's decisive victory there in 1945. Okinawa was reverted back to Japanese control in 1972.

The relocation of Marines from the densely populated center of the island was first advocated in the late 1990s over fears of aircraft crashes. But the plan really gained momentum after the 2004 crash of a CH-53D Sea Stallion into Okinawa International University.

Still, the protesters claim the majority of Okinawans are against keeping the Marine Corps air operations on Okinawa.

"Construction of a new military base is about to start by ignoring the voices of the people of Okinawa who are against it," said protest organizer Takako Shinohara, 50, who moved to Okinawa from

Gifu prefecture. "We may not be able to stop this construction, but Okinawa's voice will certainly reach out to the rest of the world."

The protesters said the November governor's election would act as a referendum on the project and let their voices be known to the world. Nakaima is running against Naha Mayor Takeshi Onaga and former state minister under the Democratic Party-led government Mikio Shimoji.

Nakaima has drawn fire as of late for signing off on the project in December.

Onaga is adamantly against it, and Shimoji has called for prefectural referendum.

There is also an ongoing lawsuit in U.S. federal court over the effects the runway would have on the dugong, a large sea mammal that uses the bay as a feeding ground.

burke.matt@stripes.com

On-base shelters for immigrants are closing

The Associated Press

PORT HUENEME, Calif. — Officials have closed the three shelters for unaccompanied immigrant children that were set up temporarily on military bases to cope with a surge of Central Americans illegally crossing the border.

Children were discharged Saturday from Joint Base San Antonio-Lackland in Texas, and the shelter closed earlier this week, said Krista Pierrera, a spokeswoman for BCFS, a non-profit group contracted to run the shelter.

The shelter at Fort Sill in southwest Oklahoma closed Aug. 6, said Kenneth Wolfe, the spokesman for the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Administration for Children and Families. The shelter at Naval Base Ventura County in California shut down Aug. 7, Wolfe told the Ventura County Star.

The shelters could be reopened if border crossings spike again, Wolfe previously said.

About 7,700 children were housed at the bases since shelters opened in May and early June. The average stay was 35 days.

Last week, government officials estimated that closing all three shelters would take between two and eight weeks.

From October to June, more than 57,000 unaccompanied children, mostly from Honduras, Guatemala and El Salvador, have illegally crossed the U.S.-Mexico border.

By law, unaccompanied child immigrants from countries that don't border the United States must be handed over to the Department of Health and Human Services within 72 hours of being detained. The government is responsible for caring for the children until they are united with a relative or sponsored in the U.S. while waiting for immigration court hearings to proceed.

CRISIS IN IRAQ

Aid: Analyst says 'Iraqis have to come together' to defeat militant group

FROM FRONT PAGE

Without a profound political shift in Iraq, more U.S. aid will do little to alter security conditions in a country that faces the prospect not only of breaking apart, but of having the self-declared Islamic State as an immovable force in the region for the foreseeable future, the experts say.

For nearly a week, the U.S. has been conducting airstrikes on limited Islamic State targets in northern Iraq. A modest number of special operations forces have been dispatched to assess the crisis and advise Iraq's floundering army.

Another small group of Marines and special operations troops were sent to assist Kurdish troops in evacuating Mount Sinjar, where militants, also known as ISIS or ISIL, had trapped thousands of minority Yazidis. The U.S. said late Wednesday that the crisis had been eased by U.S. airstrikes and an offensive by Kurdish fighters.

But U.S. military officials have said limited airstrikes alone will not be enough to turn the tide on the battlefield.

"The effectiveness of airstrikes is overstated," Skinner said. "They're pretty good if you catch someone in the open, but there is a huge issue with collateral damage or innocent people getting killed, so that is not the answer."

Off the table is any plan to commit U.S. ground forces to the fight. The Obama administration has ruled that out and few of his most vocal foreign policy opponents are calling for a major U.S. ground force.

But top U.S. officials say more support could be forthcoming in other areas apart from the semi-autonomous Kurdish region, where airstrikes have enabled its peshmarga forces to keep the Islamic State from advancing on the regional capital, Irbil.

Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel and Secretary of State John Kerry say more military and economic assistance is under consideration should Iraq form a more inclusive government once Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki leaves office. That could take time, given al-Maliki's constitutional challenge to the designation of a rival candidate to form a new government and the complexity of reaching a coalition deal with disparate political factions.

Even with a new government in place, reconstituting the heavily Shiite Iraqi army, which is distrusted by Sunnis and Kurds and which has already fled the fight once, could be a slow process.

"Iraqis have to come together," Skinner said. "The army has to pick up the weapons it already dropped."

Should the U.S. eventually commit more military assistance, that could include rearming the Iraqi army, which abandoned stockpiles of weapons when it fled Islamic State fighters in Mosul and western Iraq. Placing U.S. special operations forces closer to the fight to help call in airstrikes also could be an option, as well as an expanded air campaign, analysts say.



KHALID MOHAMMED/AP

An Iraqi woman and her daughter from the Yazidi community sleep under a bridge Thursday in Dahuk, 260 miles northwest of Baghdad. The United Nations has announced its highest level of emergency for the humanitarian crisis in Iraq in the wake of the onslaught by Islamic militants who have overrun much of the country's north and west and have driven hundreds of thousands from their homes.

"If we decide we're going to support the Iraq government in re-establishing the territorial integrity of the country, air power could come in," said Karl Mueller, an expert at the Washington-based RAND Corp. "But there's very little to be optimistic about at the moment."

None of those assistance options will eliminate the Islamic State threat without a corresponding ground offensive by Iraqi forces, which face steep obstacles, Skinner said.

The U.S. has already announced it is rearming the Kurds — a step the Baghdad government had been reluctant to see for fear it might encourage the oil-rich Kurdish region to seek full independence.

Mueller acknowledged that arming the Kurds "represents a step in the way of supporting the Kurds as a kind of autonomous, separate entity from Iraq."

Despite the risks, "the Iraqi army is going to have to walk with the Kurds, when just two months ago they were fighting each other over oil. It would have to be a remarkable turn of events," Skinner said. "If that doesn't happen, next year, you're probably going to be having discussions with Irbil as a government. If Iraq can't unify to face a moral threat, then they are doomed."

An alternative scenario that some experts say is more likely to cause the Islamic State group trouble is to reach out to the Sunni populations to rise up against the Islamic State, which they did in 2006 and 2007 against the militants' predecessor, al-Qaida in Iraq.

The "Anbar Awakening," en-

couraged and supported by the U.S. military during the 2007 troop surge, was a turning point in the Iraq War.

"Over the long run, people don't like being governed by psychotic Islamic fundamentalists," Mueller said. "They're better at terrorizing people and seizing territory than holding and governing it. In the long run, there is the possibility that a prolonged jihadist state sort of burns itself out."

Initially, many Sunnis accepted Islamic State fighters in places such as Mosul because they hated the mostly Shiite Iraqi army. If Sunni tribes turn against the Islamic State, its fighters would have their hands full, Skinner said.

"It's not that ISIS is so strong, it's that their opponents have been so weak," Skinner said.

US policy debate

In the U.S., domestic critics say the Iraq crisis is another example of the Obama administration's clumsy response to unrest sweeping the Middle East since the Arab Spring uprisings erupted in Tunisia in December 2010 and spread across the region.

Rather than bring democracy across the Middle East, the wave of unrest has led to chaos in Libya, stragman rule in Egypt and civil war in Syria.

Critics, including former Secretary of State and presumptive Democratic presidential candidate Hillary Clinton and Arizona Republican Sen. John McCain, argue that Obama's refusal to arm moderate Syrian opposition fighters during the early stages of the civil war there helped give

rise to the Islamic State group.

Islamic extremists won their battle skills in the war against the regime of Syrian President Bashar Assad before moving swiftly through parts of Iraq to form a cross-border Islamic State or caliphate.

The Islamic State's battlefield successes have drawn recruits from Europe, the U.S. and, reportedly, members of al-Qaida-linked groups. By some estimates, the Islamic State has up to 15,000 fighters, which critics say has dire implications for U.S. security.

"ISIS is advancing on critical cities in Iraq, Syria and Lebanon, nearing our allies in Jordan and Turkey, and threatening our own personnel in northern Iraq, McCain said in a statement Tuesday. "They have created a terrorist sanctuary much larger and richer than that of al-Qaida prior to 9/11 and their leadership has already expressed ambitions to attack the United States."

But some experts on the region believe an early backing of anti-Assad moderates probably would not have blunted the Islamic State's rise.

Jihadists, not moderates, were always the dominant forces in the Syrian uprising, said Dana Allin, a senior fellow at the International Institute for Strategic Studies. "I find it hard to believe that earlier and more vigorous support (of the moderates) would have made all that much difference," Allin said in a video posted on the IISS website, echoing Obama's own views.

During his time with the CIA, Skinner said programs aimed at arming moderates often failed. "I have some experience with

that and it doesn't work," said Skinner, who now works as an analyst with New York-based Soufan Group, an international security firm. "Give the weapons to the people who are moderate and watch what happens. The extremists, who are savages, come and take them. The savages will out-fight them."

ISIL in perspective

Whether the Islamic State is intent on exporting terror beyond the Middle East isn't at all clear.

"Under the circumstances, it is not obvious there would be an imperative for the U.S. to go to war against a group like that," Mueller said. "We don't go to war with North Korea, though it is horrendous for people inside its borders. I don't know [that] ISIS is a national security imperative."

But the threat to Western interests and America's allies in the region, such as Jordan and Saudi Arabia, should not be overstated, some experts caution.

If the U.S. military can help in one area, it might be in puncturing the aura of invincibility that surrounds the militant group, whose gains on the battlefield are unprecedented, Skinner said.

In the world of jihad, signing up with the group is like "going to play for the Yankees," Skinner said.

Airstrikes can't deliver a knockout punch to the group as a whole, but they can damage its mystique, which is luring fighters from around the world.

"The first time they get undeniably crushed and lose, say, 800 fighters, which is a lot for them, that will make a difference, and the U.S. can help with that," Skinner said. "If they stick their head up, hit them hard."

vandiver.john@stripes.com
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CRISIS IN IRAQ

Humanitarian teams to leave within days

By Travis J. Tritten
Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — President Barack Obama said Thursday that U.S. humanitarian teams assisting members of the Yazidi sect in northern Iraq will be pulled from the country within days following a successful mission.

While the refugees on Sinjar Mountain appear safe, humanitarian missions and airstrikes to protect United States personnel and facilities from the Islamic State will continue in Iraq, the president said.

Obama broke from his vacation on Martha's Vineyard in Massachusetts to warn Americans that the situation there remains dire overall and that the U.S. still has a role — without having combat troops on the ground — in combating the Islamic State, which has taken over large swaths of the country, slaughtered members of religious minorities and sought to impose a fundamentalist religious state.

"The situation remains dire for Iraqis subject to [Islamic State's] terror around the country," Obama said. "We will continue airstrikes to protect our people and facilities in Iraq."

The administration has been hoping for a nonmilitary solu-

tion where Baghdad counters the advance of Islamic State by bringing Sunni Muslims into the government and strengthening national security. On Thursday, Obama endorsed newly named Iraq Prime Minister Haider al-Abadi and said Abadi is in agreement on how to solve Iraq's security crisis.

"We spoke about the need for the kind of inclusive government, the kind of government that speaks to all the people of Iraq, that is needed right now," he said.

Meanwhile, Obama said Americans should be proud of the efforts over the past week to assist the Yazidis. Airstrikes pushed back Islamic State forces threatening the refugees, and U.S. air-drops delivered 114,000 meals.

"Without food or water, they faced a terrible choice — starve on the mountain or be slaughtered on the ground," Obama said.

The Pentagon said Thursday that it saw little if any need to airdrop more food and water to Iraqis atop Sinjar because most of the stranded have left and the remainder are in less dire need, a spokesman said Thursday.

Rear Adm. John Kirby, the Pentagon press secretary, said U.S. officials believe the number on Sinjar is now "in the neighbor-

hood of 4,000," and that between 1,500 and 2,000 of those are local residents who live there and have no plans to leave.

"We believe based on our assessment of conditions on the mountain that it is much less likely that we'll need to continue to airdrop any more food and water," Kirby said. The last airdrop was Wednesday.

A U.S. assessment team that spent Wednesday on the mountaintop reported numbers far smaller and circumstances less dire than feared. Two officials said they estimated that roughly 4,500 were atop the mountain, half of which were local herders.

That makes it less likely that U.S. troops will need to conduct a major rescue effort, but it does not necessarily change the big picture in Iraq, which is in crisis with a failing government and an aggressive Sunni insurgency.

The Obama administration has been airdropping food on the mountain and contemplating a military-led rescue of civilians who fled there to escape the militant group known as the Islamic State. But it had been unclear how many people might need evacuation. Some had reported them to number in the tens of thousands.

After being briefed on the assessment team's trip to Sinjar

Mountain, Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel on Wednesday called the assessment a bit of good news. Of the U.S. effort in Iraq, he said: "It's not over. It's not complete."

Attacks across Iraq's north and west by the Islamic State and its Sunni militant allies this summer have displaced members of the minority Christians and Yazidi religious communities and threatened neighboring Iraqi Kurds in the autonomous region.

Thousands of Yazidis on the mountain were able to leave each night over the last several days, Kirby said in a statement Wednesday.

The U.S. troops and U.S. Agency for International Development staff who conducted the assessment on Sinjar — fewer than 20 people — did not engage in combat operations and all returned safely to Irbil by military aircraft, he said.

"The Yazidis who remain are in better condition than previously believed and continue to have access to the food and water that we have dropped," Kirby said. "We will continue to provide humanitarian assistance as needed and will protect U.S. personnel and facilities."

The Associated Press contributed to this story.

Iraqi army, militants clash west of Baghdad

BAGHDAD — Clashes between Iraqi troops and Sunni militants west of Baghdad killed at least four children Thursday as the United Nations announced its highest level of emergency for the Arab country's humanitarian crisis in the wake of the onslaught by the extremist Islamic State group.

The U.N. on Wednesday declared the situation in Iraq a "Level 3 Emergency" — a development that will trigger additional goods, funds and assets to respond to the needs of the displaced, said U.N. special representative Nickolay Mladenov, pointing to the "scale and complexity of the current humanitarian catastrophe."

The Security Council also said it was backing a newly nominated premier-designate in the hope that he can swiftly form an "inclusive government" that could counter the insurgent threat.

Fighting erupted early Thursday in the militant-held city of Fallujah, about 40 miles west of Baghdad. The clashes on the city's northern outskirts killed four children, along with a woman and at least 10 militants, said Fallujah hospital director Ahmed Shami.

It was difficult to gauge the situation in Fallujah, which has been in the hands of the Islamic State since early January, when the militants seized much of the province.

From The Associated Press

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MILITARY

Civilian doctors to back up VA primary care

By TOM PHILPOTT

More than two decades ago, when a sinking military health care system saw patient demand exceed its capacity to deliver timely care, particularly for a burgeoning retiree population, the Department of Defense contracted with the private sector to provide alternative networks of civilian physicians to deliver managed care to military beneficiaries.

The Department of Veterans Affairs is moving down a similar path of contracting for civilian provider networks. For the VA, however, the networks are to handle only an overflow of needed care, not to offer an alternative enrollment option to the VA's integrated health care system.

The networks also are helping to address an access-to-care crisis that in recent months shredded VA credibility and forced leadership changes.

On Wednesday, less than a week after President Barack Obama signed into law the Veterans Access, Choice and Accountability Act of 2014 to mandate that the VA offer more timely and convenient to veterans, the VA announced expansion of its new Patient-Centered Community Care (PC3) contracts so they also deliver primary care to veterans when and where the VA cannot.

The PC3 networks started operating in January as a backstop to provide specialty care, mental health care, limited emergency care and also limited newborn care to infants of female veterans. With their new responsibility to deliver primary care, these PC3 networks clearly have gained im-

MILITARY UPDATE

portance as tools VA will routinely use during the next several years to restore timely access to care.

Those provider networks will be familiar to many veterans whose families relied on them for Tricare services while members still served on active duty. The TriWest Healthcare Alliance, headquartered in Phoenix, Ariz., was support contractor for the Tricare West Region until two years ago. Now it will backstop VA care in 28 states and U.S. Pacific territories.

HealthNet Federal Services of Arlington, Va., still manages patient care for Tricare North Region. It now will provide both primary and specialty backup care to veterans in the other 22 states when the VA decides it own facilities and staff can't deliver timely or convenient care.

The addition of primary care to PC3 contracts is "another example of how we are working to ensure veterans get the care they need, when they need it and where they want to be seen," new VA Secretary Robert A. McDonald said in a statement announcing the change.

The statement also said the VA continues to review how PC3 "may be used to help implement the new law. It also emphasized, however, that all PC3 care to veterans will be "coordinated with their VA providers."

That's a critical point for veterans' service organizations. They favor the VA hiring more staff and building more VA clinics over any migration of health services into the private sector. The fear is that could degrade the VA's capacity over time to provide veterans, including those catastrophically injured in war, with full-spectrum health care they will need for a lifetime.

In an interview Wednesday, David McIntyre, president and chief executive officer of TriWest, was sensitive to that, emphasizing that PC3 networks will differ in a critical way from Tricare networks.

Tricare providers offer beneficiaries a "stand-alone, parallel plan" of enrollment to using military health care on base. By contrast, veterans who need occasional care through the PC3 networks will remain enrolled and will have its care monitored by the VA health care system, McIntyre said.

"That's the core of what the VA PC3 is," he said. "It's not to serve as a threat, frankly, to the VA system. It's really a wraparound network."

McIntyre also touted the value to the VA of having consolidated networks of providers ready to serve as a "relief valve" when veterans can't get timely, convenient care from inside the VA. He noted that discovery of thousands of veterans awaiting care through the Phoenix VA Health Care System "lit off the furnace" of the crisis over veterans facing long wait times for care.

Yet last month, McIntyre said, civilian providers working under the TriWest PC3 network provided specialty care to about 3000 veterans in the Phoenix area as part of an aggressive VA effort to end patient backlogs.

"Today," he said, "every veteran who cannot be seen in the [Phoenix] VA on the specialty side gets care within standards downtown. ... The backlog in spe-

cialty care has been worked off and 4400 providers in Maricopa County surrounding the [Phoenix] VA medical center are that safety net."

Starting this month, under newly modified contracts, TriWest and HealthNet will begin to backstop VA on primary care appointments at select locations. By December, primary care will be available in "all of the areas in which we operate," McIntyre said. PC3 contracts also were changed to aligned networks to tighter "drive times" for care access set in the new law.

McIntyre and Thomas Carrato, president of HealthNet Federal Services, testified before the House Veterans Affairs Committee in June, and each of them suggested expanding PC3 contracts into primary care.

Send comments to Military Update, P.O. Box 231111, Centerville, VA, 20120, email milupdate@aol.com or twitter: Tom Philpott @Military_Update.

Sailor to be punished over rape threat on social media

By JAMES QUEALLY
Los Angeles Times

A sailor based in Washington state has been found guilty of threatening in a social media posting to rape a California naval recruit and will face internal discipline, Navy officials told the Los Angeles Times on Wednesday.

Nicholas Lord, a sailor aboard the aircraft carrier Nimitz, stationed in Bremerton, Wash., was accused of making the lewd comments last month after the woman posted a picture of herself and said she was joining the Navy.

"If I could and I knew you I'd hold you down and rape you," Lord wrote, authorities say.

Cmdr. Jeannie Groeneveld, public affairs officer for Naval Air Force Pacific, told The Times that Lord had been found guilty of using indecent language and would face an undisclosed punishment.

He has not been removed from the Navy, according to Groeneveld, who said possible punishments include demotion or a reduction in salary. Privacy

laws bar the Navy from releasing specific details about an internal inquiry.

Lord, who joined the Navy in 2008 and served as a petty officer second class and electrician's mate aboard the Nimitz, did not respond to messages seeking comment. Attempts to contact the woman at whom the comment was aimed have been unsuccessful.

The Navy does not have a general social media policy for its sailors, according to Groeneveld.

"For personal social media sites for Navy sailors, there isn't an overarching policy, because our servicemembers have a right to free speech," she said. "They are held accountable for their actions when their comments fall outside of good order and discipline."

The initial comment, made last month, immediately went viral, sparking controversy on Web pages for naval recruits and a page for the Nimitz.

It remains unclear whether the woman, who once lived in Salinas, Calif., has reported for basic training.

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MILITARY

MV Cape Ray has neutralized 580 tons of sarin ingredients

BY STEVEN BEARDSLEY
Stars and Stripes

A U.S. ship in the Mediterranean Sea has neutralized more than 580 tons of chemical ingredients for the nerve agent sarin as part of the international effort to destroy Syria's chemical weapons program, according to the U.N. organization running the effort.

The MV Cape Ray, a former merchant ship loaded with Syria's most dangerous chemical precursors in early July to dilute them at sea, will now begin work on almost 20 tons of sulfur mustard, a blistering agent, according to the Organization for the Prohibition

of Chemical Weapons. Once finished, it will deliver the diluted solutions to land-based facilities in Finland and Germany for disposal.

Two large hydrolysis systems installed on the ship detoxify chemicals by pumping in fresh water and heating the solution. The remaining, less-toxic effluents are kept on board.

The international effort to destroy Syria's stockpile, which was estimated at more than 1,000 tons of chemical ingredients, as well as armaments and production facilities, began last fall in the wake of a suspected chemical weapons

attack by the Syrian government against the rebel-held town of Ghouta nearly a year ago. Hundreds of civilians were killed in the attack, which employed sarin-filled rockets.

Russia and the U.S. brokered a deal to dismantle the program to avert possible U.S. missile strikes against the regime. Under the deal, Syria renounced its program, joined the 1992 Chemical Weapons Convention and agreed to transfer chemicals for destruction. Tons of less-toxic chemicals have been taken to Germany, the U.K. and U.S. for destruction, while the most dangerous,



DESMOND PARKS/Courtesy of the U.S. Navy

The MV Cape Ray enters the Medcenter Container Terminal Italian port on July 1 to receive Syrian chemical materials.

or "priority one," chemicals were loaded at the port of Latakia for transport to the Cape Ray.

As of last week, 60 percent of the country's chemical weapons program had been destroyed, according to an Associated Press story citing a report made to the U.N. Security Council by the head of the joint OPCW-U.N. mission.

Remaining challenges include

destroying 12 production facilities in Syria. The OPCW is also investigating claims that the Syrian government used chlorine gas against rebels. Some Western officials, meanwhile, have questioned whether the regime of Bashar Assad turned over its full chemical stockpile for destruction.

beardsley.steven@stripes.com
Twitter: @sbeardsley



CALVIN BARRIEAU/Courtesy of the U.S. Army

Army Brig. Gen. Christopher Cavoli, right, commander of the Joint Multinational Training Command, hands the guidon to Col. Thomas Mackey, incoming commander of the Joint Multinational Readiness Center, on Thursday during an assumption-of-command ceremony at Hohenfels, Germany.

Mackey takes over for Norris at JMRC

BY MICHAEL S. DARNELL
Stars and Stripes

GRAFENWÖHR, Germany — Col. Thomas Mackey assumed command of the Joint Multinational Readiness Center at Hohenfels during a ceremony Thursday.

Mackey, a career infantry officer of 25 years, is replacing Col. John Norris, who was reassigned to the Joint Planning Support Element in Norfolk, Va., in June.

Hohenfels underwent substantial changes during Norris' tenure, including a mass restructuring of manpower and the dissolution of the garrison's individual command. Mackey hopes to bring a measure of stability to one of Europe's largest proving grounds.

"I think for ... what we're doing here at JMRC, it's making sure that we really maintain the standards that have been set here, in terms of providing a world-class training experience, both the U.S. brigades, but also our multinational partners," he said.

The JMRC coordinates training on the 40,000-acre Hohenfels Training Area.

Mackey previously served as commander of the 2nd Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 25th Infantry Division at Schofield Barracks, Hawaii.

Besides maintaining the operational standards, Mackey said, family welfare will be his other command priority, ensuring there is a good local support network.

darnell.michael@stripes.com

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PACIFIC

Singapore gives US Navy lessons on traffic at sea

By SETH ROBSON
Stars and Stripes

Navy crews have been picking up valuable lessons from their Singapore counterparts on how to maneuver in the sea version of heavy traffic — a mix of civilian and military vessels, sometimes spiced up with pirates.

Singapore's sailors spend much of their time in the Strait of Malacca, one of the world's busiest shipping lanes. It is constantly transited by countless vessels carrying oil and other cargo between the South China Sea and the Indian Ocean.

That knowledge and experience have been passed on this month to Navy servicemembers deployed to Singapore for the annual Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training exercise.

"There is a page in their play-book that we need to be stealing," Navy Capt. Fred Kacher said Monday, shortly after returning from a cruise on the RSS Formidable, a Singaporean navy frigate.

Kacher, the Destroyer Squadron 7 commodore, led a 1,000-strong U.S. force, two destroyers, a nuclear submarine, a fuel ship and a P-8 Poseidon aircraft during the exercise. He said there was a lot to learn from watching the Singaporeans navigate the busy shipping lanes.

Ian Chong, an assistant professor in the Department of Political Science at the National University of Singapore, said the operational environment around Singapore is different from that in most other parts of the world.

"Naval vessels need to be concerned with heavy civilian traffic," he said.

Piracy is also an issue, and military personnel must be ready to support law enforcement and other agencies in an emergency. That requires cooperation across national boundaries, which makes planning and coordination more complex, Chong said.

The heavy ship traffic presents "a challenging acoustic environment" for sonar operators, and weather can also disrupt operations in the Strait of Malacca, said Lt. Lauryn Dempsey, Destroyer Squadron 7 spokeswoman.

During gunnery exercises with the Americans, the Singaporeans used their local knowledge to maneuver and to avoid bad weather and civilian shipping, she added.

The U.S. has been conducting CARAT exercises in Singapore for 20 years. Singapore is also home to Task Force 73 and Command Logistics Group Western Pacific — logistics organizations that arm, fuel, feed and support the 7th Fleet's operations in the region.

American engagement there is expanding.

The USS Freedom — one of several new fast, shallow-water vessels known as littoral combat ships — recently completed an eight-month deployment to Singapore. It will be replaced by another LCS, the USS Fort Worth, later this year, according to the Navy.

The U.S. and Singapore have agreed to deploy up to four littoral combat ships to Singapore for a year or more at a time with San Diego-based crews changing out



Photo courtesy of Defense Department

Petty Officer 2nd Class Nicholas Jones loads a torpedo onto an SH-60B Seahawk helicopter aboard the USS Wayne E. Meyer in the South China Sea in preparation for a torpedo training exercise, during Cooperation Afloat Readiness and Training 2014 Singapore.



GILBERT A. BOUBOU/Courtesy of the U.S. Navy

U.S. Marines assigned to 1st Battalion 8th Marine Regiment, Bravo Company, conduct a joint amphibious landing exercise with marines from the Philippines during the joint exercise.

every four months, Kacher said.

Singapore is the base for other CARAT exercises in nine South-east Asian nations, along with a similar engagement in Vietnam, he said.

During the at-sea portion of the exercise, U.S. and Singaporean vessels practiced surface engage-

ments, air defense and submarine operations, Kacher said.

"Rather than focus on who a potential adversary might be, it is better to focus on how our navies work together at sea," he said.

Singapore is close to several potential flash points in the South China Sea, where numerous small

islands and the resource-rich waters around them are subject to competing claims from China, Vietnam, the Philippines, Brunei, Malaysia and Taiwan.

Singapore isn't among the claimants, but freedom of navigation, maritime safety and overflights are extremely important for the country, Chong said.

"Any act by claimants that might endanger those things would be of serious concern to Singapore," he said.

The Singapore government's strategy in allowing U.S. forces to operate from its territory is to foster greater engagement in the region with a major power. The goal is to give powerful nations a stake in the region's stability and a stake in Singapore's stability, he said.

The advantage for the U.S. in having a logistics hub there is that it can resupply ships headed to the Indian Ocean and the Persian Gulf, Chong said.

"If Singapore is seen to be an important jumping-off point for U.S. deployments, the U.S. might want to keep that," he said.

robson.seth@stripes.com
Twitter: @SethRobson1

Dempsey most senior officer to visit Vietnam since war

USA Today

HANOI — Army Gen. Martin Dempsey landed here Wednesday, the first chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff to visit Vietnam since 1971 when nearly 300,000 U.S. troops continued to fight in the bloody, costly war here.

Dempsey's visit represents a further thawing in the relationship between the former foes. The two countries normalized relations in 1995 under President Bill Clinton.

Dempsey's arrival was a low-key affair. A small delegation met him at the airport and whisked him through a fast-moving river of commuters on scooters navigating rain-slickened streets.

Dempsey referred to events in "other parts of the world" that vied for his attention, no doubt a reference to the crisis in Iraq. But he told Vietnamese defense officials he wasn't going to raise his trip here. President Barack Obama and Defense Secretary Chuck Hagel insisted on it, he said.

They told him: "The place for you right now is Vietnam," Dempsey said.

His visit comes as Vietnam and China, its often-quarrelsome neighbor to the north, continue to spar over such issues as offshore mineral rights. China has asserted its claims in recent months, shifting a massive oil-exploration rig to disputed waters in the South

China Sea.

The trip's purpose is to build relations with senior Vietnamese military officials and to discuss regional security concerns, according to Air Force Col. Ed Thomas, Dempsey's spokesman. The visit is one more step in building a normal relationship.

A generation ago, that was almost unthinkable. The war had claimed the lives of 58,000 U.S. troops, altered American views about its role in the world and ravaged Vietnam. Today, although it continues under Communist rule, Vietnam appears open for business.



Dempsey

Major US-S. Korean exercise starts Monday

By ASHLEY ROWLAND
AND YOO KYONG CHANG
Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — U.S. Forces Korea and the South Korean military will kick off their annual late summer Ulchi Freedom Guardian drill beginning Monday, according to a spokesman for South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff.

The Ulchi Freedom Guardian exercise, along with Key Resolve and Foal Eagle in the spring, are the largest joint drills held each year in the South, usually involving tens of thousands of troops.

This year's UFG will run Aug. 18 through Aug. 28 or 29, the JCS

spokesman said Thursday.

USFK has not announced the dates for the computer-simulated war games yet. The spokesman said an official announcement from the U.S. and South Korea would likely be issued Monday.

North Korea, which views the exercise as preparation for an invasion, typically responds with some sort of threat or warning.

The North fired rockets off its coast Thursday, although the JCS spokesman said the reason was unclear.

There is some speculation that the rockets might have been in response to Pope Francis' arrival in South Korea.

rowland.ashley@stripes.com

PACIFIC

US military in S. Korea eager for pope's visit

By ASHLEY ROWLAND
Stars and Stripes

SEOUL, South Korea — Some 300 members of the U.S. military community will attend Pope Francis' open-air Mass on Saturday, a key event in his five-day visit to South Korea that many hope will promote peace on the bitterly divided peninsula.

Approximately 240 Catholics from U.S. Army Garrison Yongson and 50 from Osan Air Base, along with five military chaplains, will attend the 10 a.m. Mass at Gwanghwamun Square in central Seoul.

"This is a special treat for us," said Col. Austin Coe, Catholic chaplain for Yongson. Of the 1 million people projected to attend the Mass, only 200,000 — including the Yongson and Osan members — will be allowed inside a security barricade granting closer access to the pope.

The crowd is expected to stretch from historic Gyeongbok Palace to Seoul City Hall. While most

in the audience will be seated on the ground, the U.S. military attendees will have chairs near the altar.

"This is very special consideration in recognition of what we do here on the peninsula," Coe said.

The pope's visit comes as the U.S. and South Korea prepare for annual military drills, scheduled to begin Monday, that are viewed by North Korea as preparation for war.

Shortly before Francis' arrival in Seoul on Thursday morning, North Korea launched three short-range projectiles from Wonsan into the East Sea, officials said. A spokesman for South Korea's Joint Chiefs of Staff said Pyongyang may have been trying to distract from the pope's visit. Two more projectiles were fired around noon.

The North earlier rejected a proposal to allow 10 North Korean Catholics to attend a Mass with the pope, according to the Archdiocese of Seoul.

This is the first papal visit in



A construction crew builds a stage in Gwanghwamun Square in front of the Gyeongbok Palace where Pope Francis will hold Mass for an estimated crowd of 1 million Saturday in Seoul, South Korea.

ASHLEY ROWLAND/
Stars and Stripes

25 years to South Korea, whose 5.5 million Catholics make up about 11 percent of the country's population.

Sun Park, acting chief of Osan's Airman and Family Readiness Center, is helping coordinate military attendance at the upcoming Mass. He said Catholicism holds a special place in South Korea's history because it was the first foreign religion introduced into the country, and many believers were persecuted.

Francis' visit is particularly meaningful because of the increased tensions with Pyongyang, Park said, and some believe his presence could increase momentum for reunification. Park said he wouldn't be surprised if the pope makes a surprise trip to Panmunjom or another border town in a push for peace.

Many also are hoping Francis will help draw international attention to the former sex slaves known as "comfort women" who were forced into prostitution during the Japanese occupation of the peninsula that ended in 1945.

Coe said Francis is extremely popular among Catholics "because of his low and humble attitude, and his approach to the marginalized." He is expected to ride to the Mass in a small Korean-made Kia instead of a more stately vehicle.

Attendees from Yongson and Osan underwent a rigorous security clearance process that began months ago to get passes to sit inside the barricades.

Some who didn't sign up in time will watch from outside the security zone.

"It's a huge deal. It's not something you get to experience every day," said Staff Sgt. Traci Keller, of the 51st Fighter Wing Public Affairs Office, who will leave Osan with two busloads of Catholics at 5 a.m. Saturday to travel to the Mass. "It was definitely one of those things on my bucket list. I didn't think it would be happen here, of all places."

Excitement is high among Osan attendees, Park said, because for many, seeing the pope in person is a once-in-a-lifetime event.

"He's a direct representative of God, as far as Catholics are concerned," he said.

After landing, the pope attended a welcome ceremony with President Park Geun-hye at the Blue House, the president's office and residence. His itinerary for the rest of the trip includes celebrating a Mass in Daejeon that will be attended by family members of the Sewol ferry disaster and a meeting with Catholic youth in Dangjin.

Construction crews worked Thursday morning to erect a stage, backed by a cross, in front of the palace for Saturday's Mass, during which the pope will be blessed by 124 South Korean Catholic martyrs.

Groups of riot police stood guard throughout the plaza, while onlookers snapped photos of banners bearing the pontiff's picture. A few people walked toward the stage with arms held aloft in worship.

Stars and Stripes staffer Yoo Kyong Chang contributed to this story. rowland.ashley@stripes.com

Guided-missile destroyers call Hawaii new homeport

By WYATT OLSON
Stars and Stripes

FORT SHAFTER, Hawaii — Two guided-missile destroyers will arrive in Hawaii this week, making Joint Base Pearl Harbor-Hickam their new homeport.

The USS Preble is expected on Thursday, with the USS John Paul Jones pulling in on Friday.

The Preble's shift from San Diego will allow it to provide increased security and a greater forward presence in the Pacific Ocean. Robert T. Bryans, Jr., the ship's commander, said in a statement released by Naval Surface Group Middle Pacific, the command in charge of surface ships home-ported at Pearl Harbor.

The Preble replaces the USS Reuben James, which was decommissioned in July 2013, as a middle Pacific surface combatant. As a Flight 2A-type destroyer, the Preble can carry helicopters, the statement said.

The John Paul Jones will replace the guided-missile cruiser USS Lake Erie, which will stay in San Diego after undergoing extended repairs there.

The John Paul Jones brings updated advanced Aegis missile capabilities to the surface group. It replaces the Lake Erie in Hawaii

as a rotational ballistic missile defense deployer and as a testing ship as part of a long-range U.S. commitment to the security of the Indo-Asia-Pacific region, the statement said.

John Paul Jones Commander Andrew Thomson said his crew was ready to assume the role as the Navy's Integrated Air and Missile Defense test ship. In the coming years, the ship is expected to test newer and more advanced systems that will be used to defend the nation and allied forces overseas, Thomson said.

The John Paul Jones was commissioned Dec. 18, 1993, and is named after the famed American Revolutionary War naval captain. Commissioned Nov. 9, 2002, the Preble is the sixth U.S. Navy ship named after U.S. naval hero Commodore Edward Preble, who battled the Barbary pirates off the coast of North Africa in the early 1800s. Preble led a naval blockade of Tripoli, Libya, and oversaw an officer corps that would later lead the U.S. Navy in the War of 1812.

Deployments by both ships in the future are expected to extend the Navy's forward presence in the western Pacific and beef up maritime security, Williams said.

olson.wyatt@stripes.com



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MILITARY

Air Force fighter pilot convicted of 2005 rape

By NANCY MONTGOMERY
Stars and Stripes

An Air Force fighter pilot was convicted of rape last week, nine years after he committed the crime against a young airman.

Lt. Col. Michael J. Briggs, an F-16 pilot who was the 52nd Fighter Wing chief of safety at Spangdahlem Air Base, Germany, was convicted on Aug. 7 after a weeklong court-martial before a military judge, according to Air Force officials.

The judge sentenced Briggs, 40, to five months in jail, dismissal from the Air Force and a reprimand.

The rape occurred in 2005 while Briggs was on a temporary duty assignment at Mountain Home Air Force Base, Idaho, officials said.

"This was a violent rape that left (the victim) bleeding and bruised," said an Air Force official, who declined to be identified because he was not authorized to discuss the case.

The victim informed her supervisor at the time, but the supervisor suggested she and Briggs "work things out" without involving law enforcement, the official said. The woman also confided in a couple of friends, but no official report was filed.

Last year, the woman, born now

a staff sergeant, decided to report her rape again after she attended an Air Force sexual assault briefing, the official said.

"This was a case of us having a program in place, and her feeling empowered," said Capt. Bryon McGarry, a Spangdahlem spokesman.

The staff sergeant contacted Air Force criminal investigators. Investigators taped a phone call she made to Briggs, discussing the long-age event, according to the official familiar with the case.

"I'm sorry I raped you and will always be sorry that I raped you," he told her, according to the Air Force official.

At his trial, however, Briggs testified that the sex had been consensual, admitting only to adultery, McGarry said.

Briggs, a Texas native, had served 18 years in the Air Force, McGarry said. He arrived at Spangdahlem a year ago.

Before that he was stationed in the Pacific. In 2008, while stationed at Misawa Air Base, he served as an F-16 demonstration pilot, performing aerial stunts for audiences at a dozen shows a year.

montgomery.nancy@stripes.com

Air Force Academy coaches told to help curb sex assaults

The Associated Press

AIR FORCE ACADEMY, Colo. — The superintendent of the U.S. Air Force Academy said Wednesday that she has told athletic coaches to take a bigger role in preventing sexual assaults, pulling them into the yearslong campaign at the school to stem abuse.

Lt. Gen. Michelle Johnson, who took charge of the school a year ago, said coaches had not been fully involved in what she called the broader conversation about school standards.

Johnson said she has spoken with them twice about her expectations and told them to talk to athletes about sexual assault.

"I was frank about the need for them to help the institution enforce our standards," she said in an interview. "I was frank about what happens, the complexity of sexual assault prevention."

Congress and the Pentagon are closely monitoring sexual assaults at the Air Force, Army and Navy academies. A Department of Defense report in January said a cul-

ture of disrespect permeates the schools and contributes to sexual harassment and assaults. The report identified sports and club teams as an area where the academies needed to expand training.

The Air Force Academy took the unusual step of offering back-to-back interviews with Johnson and other leaders and cadets on Wednesday after recent news reports about allegations of sexual abuse and other misconduct by athletes and lax oversight of sports there.

Academy officials have said the allegations were investigated, and where warranted, cadets were court-martialed, expelled or given other punishments.

The academy's inspector general is about to launch a review of the athletic department, which will include its culture — a term the Air Force often uses when discussing whether the atmosphere is conducive to sexual assaults and other misconduct.

The review is expected to be completed by late September or early October.



PHOTOS BY MICHAEL S. DARNELL/Stars and Stripes

Six soldiers from the 7th Joint Multinational Readiness Command tackle an obstacle course Tuesday during the first leg of the U.S. Army in Europe's Best Warrior competition.

3 JMTC soldiers head to next round in Best Warrior contest

By MICHAEL S. DARNELL
Stars and Stripes

GRAFENWÖHR, Germany — Twelve men volunteered, six men passed the initial cuts, but only three of the Joint Multinational Training Command's soldiers are moving on to the next level in the U.S. Army's Best Warrior competition.

Pvt. Benjamin Ranew, Staff Sgt. William Chavis and 1st Lt. Mitchell Messick conquered three days of physical and mental challenges and will now compete against troops from across Europe at the U.S. Army in Europe level.

Out of the pool of contenders, only two — one junior enlisted soldier and one noncommissioned officer — will be selected to represent the USAREUR at the 13th annual all-Army competition at Fort Lee, Va., later this year. Messick, now the 7th Army JMTC Officer of the Year, will have to be content fighting to be recognized as the top junior officer at the USAREUR level, as there is no officer category at the all-Army competition. He'll also be the JMTC team leader at the USAREUR.

Ranew, Chavis and Messick will be joined by representatives from each of the 12 major Army commands, including the National Guard and Special Operations Command. The winners of that all-Army competition will receive accolades, awards and invitations to big-ticket social events.

"You always got to do things that set yourself apart from your peers," Chavis, the 7th Army Noncommissioned Officer of the Year, said on the opening day of the JMTC competition. "Whoever wins, it doesn't really matter —



Staff Sgt. William Chavis fires an M240G machine gun during a live-fire exercise during the competition.

you still get the training value."

The initial six competitors ran through a rapid succession of events, including simulated medical evacuation battlefield scenarios, a sergeants major inspection board, an early morning 8-mile march and a bevy of live-fire drills designed to test their knowledge of weapons systems. "The events themselves altogether were challenging but isolated and on their own," Messick said. "It was great because for everything we worked as a team. So you always had other guys you could fall back on to help push you, and you could help push them when it looked like they were struggling."

The trio now face some of Europe's finest soldiers at the USAREUR-level event to be held Sept. 15-19 in Grafenwöhr.

The most recent winner from the USAREUR was Staff Sgt. Matthew Senna, who took home top honors in the NCO category in 2012.

Sgt. Maj. Tony Tuck, the JMTC operations and training sergeant major, said his soldiers have a real shot at bringing the title back to the USAREUR.

"They have the mentality that they can go into the European Best Warrior competition and accomplish whatever task they throw at them," he said.

Last year, Sgt. 1st Class Jason Manella, from U.S. Army Reserve Command, and Spc. Adam Christensen, from U.S. Army Pacific Command, took home the top honors as noncommissioned officer of the year and soldier of the year, respectively.

"I don't know much about the USAREUR level of competition," Ranew said. "I know there is a lot more competitors from all over the place who have been training probably a lot more than I have, so I'm going to go up there, give what I got and, hopefully, it's enough."

darnell.michael@stripes.com

NATION

Governor vows changes in wake of violence

By JIM SALTER and JIM SUHR
The Associated Press

FLORISSANT, Mo. — Missouri Gov. Jay Nixon said Thursday that unspecified "operational shifts" are ahead for law enforcement in the St. Louis suburb that has been the scene of violent protests since a police officer fatally shot an unarmed black teenager.

Speaking at a meeting of clergy and community members, the governor told the audience that "you all will see a different tone" in law enforcement's response to the demonstrations in the town of Ferguson.

Nixon did not elaborate on the changes ahead, but they are likely to be explained at a news conference planned for later in the day.

In his first in-person remarks about the tense standoff, President Barack Obama appealed for "peace and calm" on the streets.

"I know emotions are raw right now in Ferguson, and there are certainly passionate differences about what has happened," Obama said. "But let's remember that we're all part of one American family. We are united in common values and that includes the belief in equality under the law, the respect for public order and the right to peaceful public protests."

Obama, speaking from the Massachusetts island where he's on a two-week vacation, said there was no excuse for excessive force by police in the aftermath of Saturday's shooting of 18-year-old Michael Brown. He said he had asked the Justice Department and FBI to investigate the incident.

Police on Thursday defended the use of tear gas and smoke bombs to repel demonstrators after another night of chaos over the death of 18-year-old Michael Brown.

St. Louis County police spokesman Brian Schellman said officers on Wednesday night tossed tear gas to disperse a large crowd of protesters after some threw Molotov cocktails and rocks at officers. More than 10 people were arrested in Ferguson.

"In talking to these guys, it is scary," Schellman said of officers on the front lines of the protest. "They hear gunshots going off, and they don't know where they're coming from."

But the police response has drawn heavy criticism from many circles. Civil rights activist Al Sharpton called Thursday for the Justice Department to monitor Ferguson and the way police are handling the crisis.

"Even if we disagree, this climate is not good for anyone and is dangerous for everyone," Sharpton said in a statement.

At the community meeting, Sierra Smith, who lives in the neighborhood where Brown was shot, told the governor "the police have no respect at all for the community."

Nixon responded that the Bill of Rights gives the people "the right to speak the truth to power" and "we will work to live out those



JEFF ROBERSON/AP

A protester kicks a smoke grenade deployed by police back in the direction of police Wednesday in Ferguson, Mo.



DAVID CARSON, ST. LOUIS POST-DISPATCH/AP

Terrell Williams Jr. hugs his daughter, Sharell, 9, while standing with his wife, Shamika Williams, and daughters Tamika, 6, and Sharell, 2, on Wednesday in Ferguson. They were overcome with emotion after Williams Jr. confronted police.

rights."

Nixon has faced increasing criticism over suggestions he has not done enough to calm tensions.

State Sen. Maria Chapelle-Nadal had been particularly critical of the governor, accusing him of being missing in action during the crisis. In an interview on MSNBC, she called the governor a "coward."

The police chiefs of Ferguson and St. Louis County said Wednesday that race relations were the top priority in the town. A meeting was scheduled for Thursday between civil rights leaders and police.

Officers from multiple departments in riot gear and in military equipment have clashed nightly with protesters, who chant, "Hands up, don't shoot." Protesters faced heavily armed police who at times trained weapons on

them from armored trucks.

Two reporters said they were detained by police for not clearing out quickly enough from a McDonald's where they were working, near the protests but away from the more volatile areas. The two, who work for The Washington Post and The Huffington Post, were released with-

out charges. Both say they were assaulted but not seriously hurt.

Among those arrested was St. Louis Alderman Antonio French, who has been chronicling the protests on social media.

"I think the heavy-handed approach by police is escalating the situation and more people are going to get hurt if this keeps up," French told KMOX Radio.

Residents in Ferguson have complained about the police response that began soon after Brown's shooting with the use of dogs for crowd control — a tactic that for some invoked the civil rights protests from a half-century ago. The county police force took over, leading both the investigation of Brown's shooting and the subsequent attempts to keep the peace at the smaller city's request.

County Police Chief Jon Belmar said his officers have responded with "an incredible amount of restraint" as they've had rocks and bottles thrown at them, been shot at and had two dozen patrol vehicles destroyed.

The city and county are also under criticism for refusing to release the name of the officer who shot Brown, citing threats against that officer and others. The hacker group Anonymous on Thurs-

day released a name purported to be that of the officer, but the Ferguson police chief said later that the name was incorrect.

Police have said Brown was shot after an officer encountered him and another man on the street. They say one of the men pushed the officer into his squad car, then physically assaulted him in the vehicle and struggled with the officer over the officer's weapon. At least one shot was fired inside the car. The struggle then spilled onto the street, where Brown was shot multiple times.

Jackson said Wednesday that the officer involved sustained swelling facial injuries.

Dorian Johnson, who says he was with Brown when the shooting happened, has told a much different story. He has told media outlets that the officer ordered them out of the street, then grabbed his friend's neck and tried to pull him into the car before brandishing his weapon and firing. He says Brown started to run and the officer pursued him, firing multiple times.

Johnson and another witness both say Brown was on the street with his hands raised when the officer fired at him repeatedly.

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Gaza truce extension fans hope of a deal

By MOHAMMED DARAGHEH
The Associated Press

CAIRO — A five-day extension of a Gaza truce appeared to be holding despite a rocky start on Thursday, fanning cautious optimism of progress in the indirect negotiations underway in Cairo between Israel and major Palestinian factions, including Hamas.

It's the longest cease-fire yet since the war broke out last month in the Gaza Strip. The fighting has so far killed more than 1,900 Palestinians, the majority of them civilians, according to Palestinian and U.N. officials. Israel has lost 67 people, all but three of them soldiers.

Violence briefly spiked as the extension of a previous, 72-hour truce was announced shortly before midnight on Wednesday. The extension is to last until midnight Monday.

'We are not interested in more destruction for our people. We are not interested in more bloodshed.'

Khalil al-Haya
Hamas negotiator

Israel's military said eight Hamas rockets were launched at Israel but that the firing stopped in the early hours of Thursday morning. Israel retaliated with airstrikes on rocket- and rocket-launching sites in Gaza, the military said.

Gaza police said it recorded 17 Israeli strikes but that no casualties were reported.

Palestinian negotiators in Cairo expressed optimism that a deal to create a sustainable road map for the war-torn territory could soon be achieved.

"There is a real opportunity to reach an agreement, but (Israel) must stop the maneuvers and playing with words," said senior Hamas negotiator Khalil al-Haya. "We are not interested in more destruction for our people. We are not interested in more bloodshed."

Hamas is seeking an end to a crippling blockade imposed by Israel and Egypt in 2007. The blockade has greatly limited the movement of Palestinians in and out of the territory of 1.8 million people. It has also restricted the flow of goods into Gaza and blocked virtually all exports.

Israel says the closure is necessary to prevent arms smuggling, and officials are reluctant to make any concessions that would allow Hamas to declare victory.

Israel wants Hamas to disarm, or at least be prevented from rearming. Hamas has been accused from previous rounds of violence with Israel, including a major three-week ground operation in January 2009 and another week-long air offensive in 2012. It now controls an arsenal of several thousand rockets, many of long ranges and heavy payloads.



MANDI WRIGHT, DETROIT FREE PRESS/AP

A driver chases floodwaters below an Interstate 94 overpass where several cars were already stranded near Melvindale, Mich., on Tuesday.

Communities across US recovering after floods

The Associated Press

NORTH BABYLON, N.Y. — Communities across the U.S. are drying out after unusually heavy rains swamped highways, flooded basements and were blamed for at least four deaths.

Long Island residents were urged to remain off the road Wednesday as a round-the-clock recovery continued after a record 13.26 inches of rain fell between midnight and 9:30 a.m.

Michigan Gov. Rick Snyder issued a disaster declaration for the Detroit area after rain sent mud cascading down embankments, closing stretches of freeways all of Tuesday and part of Wednesday.

Officials at a Nebraska hospital said Wednesday its public

cafeteria could stay shuttered for months after it was inundated by floodwater over the weekend.

The latest iteration of wild weather hit the northeast Tuesday night and lingered through Wednesday. A slow-moving system, powered by tropical moisture and clouds soaring far higher than in usual summer storms, lashed communities from Maryland to New England.

The hardest hit areas, Long Island's Suffolk County and the towns of Islip and Brookhaven there, declared states of emergency after what County Executive Steve Bellone called an "unprecedented" deluge.

"It's kno just how much rain fell, it's how fast it fell," Accuweather senior meteorologist Jack Bos-

ton said, calling the storm a once every 50 years event. "We're talking about billions and billions of gallons of water and it all has to go somewhere."

The storm formed Tuesday south of Baltimore, according to Accuweather's Boston, and hit that city with its highest rainfall total in 81 years. Roads were flooded, forcing several water rescues, and a sinkhole formed on an Anne Arundel County street.

From there it swept across New Jersey — following a track similar to a typical winter storm — and dumped nearly 9 inches of rain in Millville, where a woman suffered broken ribs and a punctured lung when the walls of her basement collapsed due to flooding.

Kerry eyes China partnership despite tension

The Associated Press

HONOLULU — Improving U.S. cooperation with China is critical to maintaining stability and security in the Asia-Pacific as well as combating the effects of climate change, Secretary of State John Kerry said.

Wrapping up an eight-day, around-the-world diplomatic trip and his sixth visit to Asia as America's top diplomat, Kerry on Wednesday outlined renewed priorities for much of the Obama administration's much-touted "pivot to Asia" during its final 2½ years, including a focus on strengthening U.S.-Chinese partnership in areas of agreement and bridging gaps in areas of contention.

"One thing I know will contribute to maintaining regional peace and stability is a constructive relationship between the United States and China," Kerry said in an address to the East-West Cen-

ter think tank in Honolulu. "The United States welcomes the rise of a peaceful, prosperous and stable China, one that plays a responsible role in Asia and the world and supports rules and norms on economic and security issues."

"We are committed to avoiding the trap of strategic rivalry and intent on forging a relationship in which we broaden our cooperation on common interests and constructively manage our differences and disagreements."

Kerry arrived in Hawaii after stops in Afghanistan, Myanmar, Australia and the Solomon Islands during which tensions between China and its smaller neighbors over competing territorial claims in the South China Sea were a major subject of discussion. At a Southeast Asia regional security forum in Myanmar over the weekend, Kerry formally unveiled a U.S. proposal for a voluntary freeze on provocative

actions by all claimants, including the Chinese.

The U.S. says it has no position on the competing claims but does regard stability in the South China Sea as a national security issue, given the region's role as one of the world's busiest maritime shipping zones.

"We do care about how those questions are resolved. We care about behavior," Kerry said. "We firmly oppose the use of intimidation, coercion or force to assert a territorial or maritime claim by anyone. And we firmly oppose any suggestion that freedom of navigation and overflight and other lawful uses of the sea and airspace are privileges granted by big states to small ones."

"All claimants must work together to solve the claims through peaceful means," he said. "These principles bind all nations equally, and all nations have a responsibility to uphold them."

Clinton and White House try to shrug off disparity

By NEEDRA PICKLER
The Associated Press

VINEYARD HAVEN, Mass. — Hillary Rodham Clinton and President Barack Obama did their best to shrug off their differences as they gathered together on Martha's Vineyard following a foreign policy split.

Obama's spokesman said Wednesday the White House "is looking onwards and upwards," while Clinton joked she was planning on hugging it off with her former boss at a birthday party for a mutual friend on the island getaway where Obama is vacationing.

"We have disagreements as any partners and friends, as we are, might very well have," Clinton told reporters crowded into a bookstore signing of her memoir "Hard Choices." "But I'm proud that I served with him and for him, and I'm looking forward to seeing him tonight."

Clinton, Obama and their spouses set together later in the evening for a surf and turf dinner celebration for 150 people at the Farm Neck Golf Club. The White House said the Obamas were happy to have time with the Clintons, and noted that Obama and Clinton were among those who delivered 80th birthday toasts to guest of honor Ann Jordan, wife of Democratic adviser Vernon Jordan.

The media were not allowed in to see whether Clinton delivered her promised makeup hug after an interview with The Atlantic magazine in which she seemed to try to set herself apart from the unpopular Obama as she heads toward a possible 2016 White House bid.

"Great nations need organizing principles, and 'don't do stupid stuff' is not an organizing principle," she had said in the interview, referring to a version of the phrase Obama and his advisers have used privately to describe his approach to foreign policy.

Pilot's artificial arm detaches while landing

A British air accident report has recounted how a pilot lost control of a passenger plane after his artificial arm became detached during landing.

The report says the incident took place as the Flybe flight from Birmingham, carrying 47 passengers, was approaching Belfast City Airport in gusty conditions in February. The 46-year-old pilot had shortly before checked that his prosthetic lower left arm was securely attached to the yoke clamp, but as he performed a maneuver just before touchdown the limb became detached.

The Air Accidents Investigation Branch said Thursday he then lost his right hand and the yoke to regain control. Winds caused the plane to land heavily with a bounce. No one was hurt.

The Associate Press

WORLD



PHOTOS BY NG HAN GUA/AP

Zhang Kaisheng, 16, studies near advertisements for oversea schools at Focus Education, a tutoring and consulting agency in Beijing, on June 26. Zhang plans to join hundreds of thousands of other Chinese students when he enrolls this fall in a private U.S. high school.

Chinese students flocking to US schools

Seize opportunity to broaden their studies

BY DIDI TANG
The Associated Press

After getting a glimpse of the endless cramming for China's grueling college entrance exams from the seniors in his high school, 16-year-old Zhang Kaisheng decided to take a different path.

Like a growing number of Chinese teenagers, Zhang plans to enroll this fall in a private U.S. high school where he and his parents hope he will get a more well-rounded — if far more expensive — education. Tuition, room and board can cost around \$40,000 — three to four times more than an elite private school in China.

"I feel like the U.S. education fits me better and will allow me to do things I like to do," said Zhang, who loves playing basketball.

With more than 333,000 of its students in U.S. colleges and graduate schools, China has long been the top feeder of international students in America. Now Chinese high school students are following suit in astonishing fashion. Last year U.S. schools welcomed 50 times more of them than they did just eight years earlier.

The high schoolers want to escape the rat race at home, where students often study late into the night with little opportunity for extracurricular activities. They also believe studying in the U.S. will help them snag coveted spots at more prestigious American colleges.

"The competition has grown fiercer, and there has been pressure to go to U.S. high schools to gain an edge," said Xu Yi, who runs a tutoring and consulting agency for Chinese students called Focus Education.



Zhang Kaisheng poses for a photo near national flags of China and the U.S. at the lobby of Focus Education.

Though international surveys have shown that Chinese students perform well ahead of their American peers in subjects such as math and reading, top-level U.S. schools remain highly regarded among educated Chinese for developing critical thinking and communication skills.

Seeking 'innovation'

"China boasts solid elementary and secondary education, especially in math, but it lacks innovation," said Wang Huiyao, president of the Beijing-based Center for China and Globalization. "Chinese students may be able to memorize formulas but they lack 'soft skills' such as people skills and the ability to communicate with global language and culture."

Young Chinese with U.S. college degrees usually can expect broader career prospects, as China has become increasingly globally minded, with more opportunities for foreign-educated youth.

Last fall, the U.S. issued 31,889 F-1 student visas to Chinese youth planning to attend American high schools, up from just 639 in 2005. China also has overtaken South Korea as the No. 1 origin country of

students to U.S. high schools, with its elite families leading the way as their children are vying for spots in prestigious U.S. preparatory schools.

China's rising financial might is fueling the rise.

"Chinese families did not have the choices in the past, and they did not have the financial means, but with the rise of the middle class, Chinese families now can scour worldwide for schools," Wang said.

A worthy investment

Chinese parents see the hefty cost of private U.S. high schools as a worthy investment. "If he can develop a multitude of skills and be a well-rounded person, it would be money well spent," said Zhang Kaisheng's mother, Wang Lihong, the president of a state bank branch in Beijing.

For many students, the chance to study in the U.S. opens up new opportunities. Riley Peng, the daughter of a successful entrepreneur, disliked the emphasis on rote memorization in China, and now is engaged in a variety of classes and extracurricular activities at Choate Rosemary Hall in Wallingford, Conn., including running on the cross-country team.

"There are many things I now get to experience with," she said.

Peng's friend Lisa Li, who attends Lawrence Academy in Groton, Mass., said she felt like a failure if she didn't get the top test score in her class in Beijing. Her academic work in the U.S. is also rigorous, but she said she doesn't feel the same kind of pressure, and is now encouraged to explore other interests — like music composition.

"It is so worth it, although it is highly challenging," Li said. "U.S. prep schools are demanding intellectually, but they also emphasize creativity. It has helped me find my direction — turning the impossible into possibilities."

Her mother, Jin Min, is pleased. "Now she has creativity, instead of being a copying machine of knowledge, or an encyclo-

pedia," she said.

It helps that teens from affluent Chinese families are often well versed in English and American culture. Chinese students usually are required to demonstrate English proficiency before attending American high schools, although some U.S. schools offer remedial courses.

In any case, it's a big adjustment to study far from home. Experts warn parents to think twice before sending their children abroad and urge them to find proper guardianship or choose reputable boarding schools.

Keith Hernandez, vice president of the consulting company Duewest Education, also cautions that an American high school education might not help Chinese students get into the top U.S. universities. Sometimes, too much U.S. experience could hurt an applicant's chances if admissions officers are seeking more diverse backgrounds, he said. "They are better prepared, but it's not going to be easier."

Opportunities for schools

Still, the rising demand is creating new opportunities for American schools and enterprising educators.

In Pennsylvania, Chinese investor Jiang Bairong has bought the grounds of an old school and opened the new Princeton International School of Mathematics and Science — miles away from Princeton University — in a partnership with the High School Affiliated to Renmin University of China, an elite school in Beijing.

Principal Max McGee said he had about 30 students last fall and that the goal is to have 250 students in five years. Half would be international students — mostly from China.

"The students are immersed in English, and they learn how to write better," McGee said. "Even after one year, they have become accomplished writers, and they can present with eloquence, power and self-confidence."

NATION

NY law protects big cats, bans 'tiger selfies'

By DAVID KLEPPER

The Associated Press

ALBANY, N.Y. — New York's Internet Romeos will have to find new ways to attract mates now that it's illegal to pose for photos with a tiger, a lion or another big cat — a practice popular on online dating sites but denounced by wildlife advocates as potentially dangerous to both man and beast.

The law signed this week by Gov. Andrew Cuomo prohibits direct contact between members of

the public and big cats at traveling animal shows and fairs. Animal exhibitors would face fines for each violation.

So-called tiger selfies have emerged as popular profile photos on online dating sites, with users — generally young men — looking to stand out by posting photos of themselves with the dangerous predators.

Wildlife advocates say the trend is not only hazardous to humans but encourages mistreatment of endangered animals. The big

cats are often taken from their mothers as cubs, are poorly cared for and then are neglected or discarded when they grow up.

"They breed the cubs, use them for photo-ops, and then when they can't use them, they breed more," said Carole Baskin, founder and CEO of Big Cat Rescue, a Tampa, Fla., sanctuary that has more than 100 big cats. "Taking the cub away is a misery to the cub and the mother, and the cubs aren't fed properly. They don't sell tiger milk at the pet store."

The legislators behind the new law said they hadn't even heard of tiger selfies when they crafted the measure and simply wanted to impose some safeguards on the often unregulated industry of traveling animal shows.

"I had no idea what a tiger selfie was," said Assemblywoman Linda Rosenthal, a Manhattan Democrat. "This is a serious issue. People who take selfies with wild animals are fooling with their lives. And it harms the animal because they're generally

not well-treated. They're seen as profit-making props."

Similar laws are already on the books in states including Mississippi, Arizona and Kansas, where a 17-year-old girl was killed in 2005 while posing with a tiger for her senior photos.

Baskin said she hopes other states follow suit. She said men hoping to use tiger selfies to score dates should consider posing with domestic felines instead.

"I think women would love that," she said.

Mass. residents recapture Irish heritage in sports

By MARY MACDONALD

(Worcester, Mass.)
Telegraph & Gazette

WORCESTER, Mass. — A fast-moving field game that is part soccer, part baseball, part lacrosse and all Irish is becoming increasingly popular in Worcester.

Both adult and youth club teams have formed in recent years for Irish hurling, as well as Gaelic football.

At a practice earlier this month at Lake Park, children ages 7 to 11 prepared for a multicity hurling "blitz" that is expected to draw youths from several cities to Springfield this weekend.

Their coaches are a part of the adult team, which was to play its own game later in the day.

Irish hurling is played with a short stick, called a hurley, that ends in a flat paddle, and with a ball, called a sliotar, that is somewhat smaller than a baseball. Players can strike the ball with their stick, or pick it up and hit it to advance it down the field.

Fast and intense when played among adults, the game is less so with children, who wear a full face mask for protection. It is thought to be the oldest game in the world, according to Mike O'Connor, a coach with the Worcester Gaelic Athletic Association. In Ireland it's been played for more than 2,000 years, he said.

Here in Worcester, many club parents of Irish descent say they grew up watching it, or playing it themselves, and wanted their children to have a cultural connection to Ireland.

No one has to be Irish to play, but it's one of the reasons why the athletic club has grown in popularity, members say. Sally Hurley, of Upton, learned about the GAA club team for children when she met another parent through their daughters' Irish dance classes.

On a recent Sunday, her son, Sean, 9, was among the dozen or so boys learning skills in both hurling and Gaelic football, which is similar to soccer.

"My husband is from Ireland," Hurley said. "It was something he wanted them to have exposure to."

O'Connor, whose family is from Galway, said he started hurling a bit as a child but watched his cousins in Ireland play it regularly. Now, his son, Michael, 7, is among the club members on the youth team. His two daughters, Aine, 5, and Isla, 3, were learning how to defend the goal recently.

In Ireland, girls play a slightly different version of the game called Camogie, said Karen O'Connor.

Karen O'Connor was born in Ireland, and emigrated at age 5. When she was younger,



PHOTOS BY RICK CINLAIR, THE (WORCESTER MASS.) TELEGRAPH & GAZETTE/AP

Jack Dufault, 9, hits the ball during a game of hurling at Lake Park in Worcester, Mass., on Aug. 3.



Will Paneck, 5, of Sturbridge, Mass., learns about the game of Gaelic football from coach Michael Dufault, of Shrewsbury, Mass., at Lake Park.

hurling was only played in Ireland, but now it's played worldwide through club sports. The Worcester Gaelic Athletic Association

hurling club is part of the North American Gaelic Athletic Association, formed in 2009. The group added a Gaelic football

team this year and is reaching out to parents interested in having their children learn that sport, as well.

The O'Connors have encouraged their children to learn both hurling and Gaelic football.

"It's important because it's part of our heritage and we want to keep that going," O'Connor said. Worcester and surrounding towns have a large Irish population that might be interested, but unaware of the GAA club teams, she said.

"We're just trying to spread the word. A lot of people don't know about it."

According to the Gaelic Athletic Association website, hurling players can strike the ball on the ground or in the air. Unlike in hockey, players can pick up the ball with the hurley and carry it for not more than four steps in the hand.

After those steps, players may bounce the ball on the hurley and back to the hand, but players are forbidden to catch the ball more than twice. To get around that, one of the skills is running with the ball balanced on the hurley.

To score, players put the ball over the crossbar with the hurley or under the crossbar and into the net by the hurley for a goal, the latter being the equivalent of three points.

WORLD

Anti-independence camp gains among Scots in new poll

Bloomberg News

EDINBURGH, Scotland — Scottish nationalists seeking independence from Britain lost ground in the latest poll of voting intentions for the Sept. 18 referendum, as campaigners to keep the 307-year-old United Kingdom intact extended their lead.

Support for staying a part of Britain rose to 45 percent from 41 percent while backing for independence held at 32 percent, according to the monthly survey published by TNS on Wednesday. Among the 71 percent of respondents who said they were certain to vote, the No camp was unchanged at 46 percent, while backing for Yes rose 1 percentage point to 38 percent. Sixteen percent said they were undecided, down 2 points, TNS said.

With little more than five weeks before the ballot, the poll suggests that Scottish First Minister Alex Salmond has yet to convince voters of the benefits of independence. In the first televised debate of the campaign on Aug. 5, Alistair Darling, the former British chancellor of the exchequer who heads the No campaign, was judged the winner after questioning Salmond on the pound. A second debate is planned for Aug. 25.

There's "literally nothing anyone can do to stop" an independent Scotland from using sterling, Salmond said in an op-ed in the Sunday Herald newspaper on Aug. 10,

saying the country is "keeping it, come what may." He also reiterated a threat to walk away from the country's \$218 billion share of British debt if a currency union is denied, as the British government and the opposition have said they will do.

Polls have consistently shown the nationalists trailing behind the campaign to keep Scotland in the union with England, Wales and Northern Ireland. Enough people are undecided to cause an upset next month, although that pool is shrinking. Tom Costley, head of TNS Scotland, said in an emailed statement.

"The hopes of the Yes campaign rest on winning over most of the dwindling number of undecided voters" in the run-up to Sept. 18, Costley said.

The question of which currency a new Scottish state would use is one of the central points of disagreement. Prime Minister David Cameron has ruled out sharing the pound, while Salmond has threatened to shun Scotland's liabilities unless he changes his mind, a move that would increase British debt as a proportion of gross domestic product.

TNS said it polled 1,003 people at least age 16, the minimum to vote in the referendum, between July 23 and Aug. 7. Another poll will be published in early September, it said.



MICHEL EULER/AP

'Lovewithoutlocks'

Passers-by look on as municipality workers fix a giant sticker on the sidewalk of the Pont de l'Archeveche in Paris on Wednesday. Paris is hoping to persuade visiting couples to end the recent and unwelcome tradition of fixing padlocks to the Pont de l'Archeveche. With giant stickers in French, English and Spanish, Paris began its "Lovewithoutlocks" campaign, saying the city's famed bridge could not withstand the thousands of padlocks that cling to every available surface.

Munich brings brooms into 21st century

McClatchy Foreign Staff

BERLIN — After 850 years of using tied-together twigs to sweep the streets, Munich this summer decided to give newfangled plastic brush brooms a try.

The city, which had been importing twigs from Italy so workers could make their own brooms, decided to make the switch for a number of reasons, though basically they all boiled down to the fact that the year is 2014, not 1420. Modern brooms are cheaper and more durable, can be bought at the store, and generally are a lot less hassle.

Still, the cleaning debate is a classic example of tradition vs.

convenience, so the switch is not without its critics.

The traditional brooms, which Munich street sweepers began using about the time the Magna Carta was adopted and a couple of hundred years before Columbus sailed the ocean blue, were made fresh each day from twigs of heath brought in from Tuscany. They tended to last about one full day of heavy sweeping before needing to be replaced.

Dagmar Ruemenapf, Munich's spokeswoman, said city workers tied together about 50,000 of the handmade brooms each year. The plastic-bristle brooms will be bought already assembled; the

city says it expects to need only 900 a year.

"It's not just that we want to save money," she said. "The new brooms also handle better, and don't have to be replaced all the time."

The critics included some of Munich's street sweepers, according to the Munchen Abendzeitung newspaper.

"For us, the traditional broom is as important as the baton for a conductor," one was quoted as saying. Another said, "The feeling each day to have a fresh-bound broom in our hands was the same as waking to find a new car waiting every morning."

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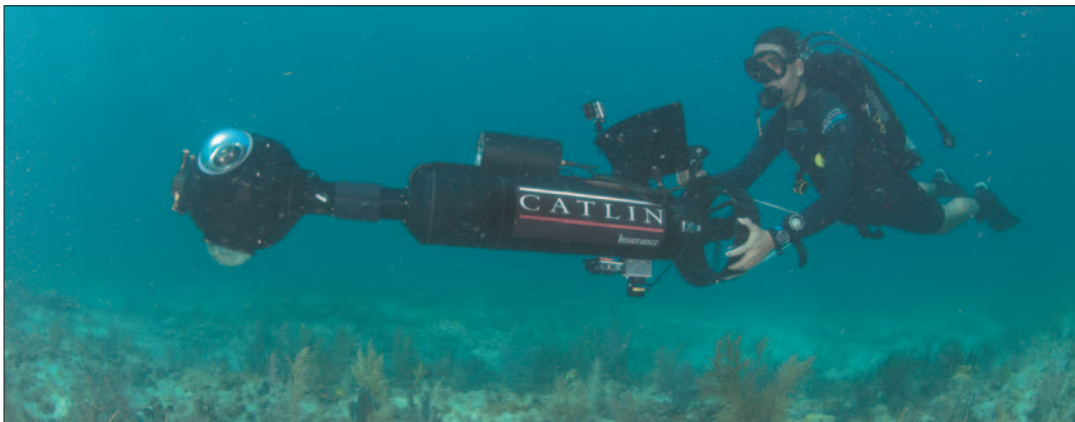
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NATION



PHOTOS BY CATLIN SEAVIEW SURVEY/AP

Above: Catlin Seaview Survey's Manuel Gonzalez surveys an area underwater in Key Largo, Fla. U.S. government scientists hope people will soon be able to go online and get a 360-degree view of reefs and other underwater wonders, much like Google Map's "street view" lets people look at homes.

Street view is going undersea

Mapping project aims to offer online images of nation's marine sanctuaries

The Associated Press

ISLAMORADA, Fla. — It's easy to go online and get a 360-degree, ground-level view of almost any street in the United States and throughout the world. Soon, scientists hope people will be able to do the same with coral reefs and other underwater wonders.

U.S. government scientists are learning to use specialized fisheye lenses underwater in the Florida Keys in hopes of applying "street view" mapping to research and management plans in marine sanctuaries nationwide. Some of the rotating and panoramic images will be available online as early as this week, including a selection on Google Maps, giving the public a window into ecosystems still difficult and costly to explore for long stretches of time.

It will be like scuba diving from your computer.

About 400,000 images have been produced so far of reefs off Australia and in the Caribbean, but this is the first time the technology is being used in U.S. waters.

The images in the U.S. will add scale and details to data that has already been collected, and illustrate the successes and failures of coral restoration. They will also help scientists study the effects of warming ocean temperatures, pollution and hurricanes on reefs, officials said.

"This allows people who can't get

underwater to understand what we mean by putting up a special preservation area around this particular spot," said Mitchell Tarrt, chief of the conservation science division at the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration's Office of National Marine Sanctuaries.

The basketball-shaped, triple-lens SVII cameras use the same technology that's used to produce Google Street View images of neighborhoods on land. Instead of being placed on top of a car, the 145-pound riggings are tethered to scuba divers and powered through the water by small motors. Smaller versions mounted on tripods also are being tested in the Keys.

In images previewed Monday by project director Richard Vevers, endangered elk horn coral, bleached fields of dead coral and coral nurseries suspended like hanging plants in the Keys' blue waters were in sharp focus as they rotated on screen.

The cameras and training in the Florida Keys National Marine Sanctuary for six NOAA officials are being paid for as part of a partnership with the Catlin Seaview Survey, funded by the global insurance company Catlin. Google also is a sponsor.

The images that have been produced so far from other Catlin surveys are being uploaded online to the Catlin Global Reef Record. The project moves next into Southeast Asia, Vevers said.



"Christ of the Abyss" is surveyed with cameras off Key Largo on Aug. 6. Scientists are using a specialized fisheye lenses to produce underwater images of the Florida Keys.

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NATION

Autistic adults find success as entrepreneurs

By JOYCE M. ROSENBERG

The Associated Press

NEW YORK — When Matt Cottle asked his boss to let him work in the supermarket's bakery, she told him he'd never do anything more than collect grocery carts.

After six years of bagging groceries and pushing carts, Cottle wanted more. He had already learned how to do some baking.

Cottle is autistic. And today he's an entrepreneur, the owner of Stuttering King Bakery, turning out batches of cookies, brownies and scones for cafes and businesses and groups that need catering.

"I was like, OK, I am destined to do something greater than that," Cottle said in the kitchen of his family's Arizona, home, where he spends hours each day filling orders. He generates \$1,200 monthly.

Cottle is one of a few known small business owners with autism, a brain disorder that affects a person's ability to comprehend, communicate and interact socially. There are varying degrees of autism, but even autistic people with the greatest capabilities can find it impossible to get a job because they take longer to read or process information, or because they struggle to hold conversa-



ROSS D. FRANKLIN/AP

Matt Cottle, owner of Stuttering King Bakery, smiles as he holds a tray of his scones in his parents' kitchen in Scottsdale, Ariz., in July.

tions. One in 68 people have some form of autism, according to government figures.

There is a growing movement to help autistic adults find jobs, but for Cottle and his family, the answer was a business of his own.

Cottle had taken training to do search-and-rescue operations. And he tried working in a bakery.

Both times, he encountered people who didn't understand him, and who ended up yelling at and insulting him, his mother, Peg Cottle, said.

He wanted to enroll in a culinary school, but an administrator gently told him and his parents it wouldn't work out. Four years ago, the Southwest Autism Re-

search and Research Center, or SAARC, connected Cottle with a pastry chef who mentored him. In August 2012, he unexpectedly got an order from a cafe operated by Phoenix-based SAARC. At that point, Cottle told his parents he was starting his own baking business.

"I'm happy as an angel," he said.

Many autistic people can run businesses if they're given the chance to discover something they like and develop skills around their interests, said Temple Grandin, one of the best-known advocates for people with autism. "If you get them exposed to something, they can get a career," said Grandin, author of "The Autistic Brain."

Grandin, who has autism, didn't speak until she was 4 years old. In her teens, Grandin was exposed to horses at a boarding school and cattle on her aunt's ranch, and she began working with farm animals. She eventually created a business designing equipment for handling livestock.

People with the most severe autism aren't able to work because their disabilities limit their ability to learn. But it's only in the last two decades that society has come to realize that many people with disabilities including autism can

work, said Paul Pizzutello, principal of Reach Academy, a school whose students include some who are autistic.

"With many people with autism, it's not their intellect that a problem; it's their ability to engage with their environment and manage social contacts," he said.

When Cottle's parents tried to help him get a job, they explained to prospective bosses that because he is autistic, he needs more time to understand instructions. The companies either didn't want to take the time to learn how to work with him or they assumed Cottle might do or say inappropriate things. He grew frustrated.

"He was at a brick wall before he started his bakery," Peg Cottle said.

Soon after starting, Cottle and his mother attended entrepreneurship training classes offered by Seed Spot, an organization that helps socially responsible businesses.

"He's legitimate. The product he produces is the real deal. His disability doesn't even come into play as far as I'm concerned," said Chris Norcross, general manager of building company and Stuttering King customer Mortenson Construction. He orders as many as 300 cookies at a time.

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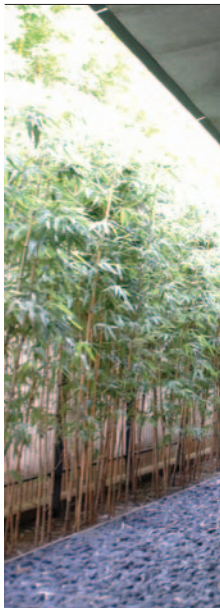
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WORLD



EVERYTHING IS INTERMEDIATE!

Japan's architects selling a lifestyle on global stage

By YURI KAGEYAMA
The Associated Press

TOKYO — A new generation of Japanese architects is scoring success by reinterpreting the past.

Unlike their predecessors, who modernized Japan with Western-style edifices, they talk of fluidly defining space with screens, innovatively blending with nature, taking advantage of earthy materials and incorporating natural light, all trademarks of Japanese design.

Their sensibility that speaks to a human-oriented yet innovative everyday life is proving a hit abroad, said Erez Golani Solomon, professor of architecture at Waseda University in Tokyo.

"Food and architecture," said Solomon, stressing how the two are Japan's most potent brands. "They are powerful — Japan's strongest cultural identity."

Kengo Kuma, one of the star architects, finds he is in demand not only in Japan and in the West but also in places such as China.

Among the major China projects for Kuma are the recent Xin-jin Zhi Museum, whose sloping angles and repeated tile motifs are characteristically Kuma, and the still ongoing Yunnan Sales Center, a sprawling complex of shops, housing and a theater, where a wooden lattice decorates the main structure overlooking a pond.

He also designs private homes for affluent Chinese who admire Zen philosophy and want to incorporate that stark aesthetic into their daily lives, he said.

Japanese architecture offers



PHOTOS BY SHIZUO KAMBAYASHI/AP

Top and above left: Visitors walk through the exterior corridor at the Nezu Museum, designed by Japanese architect Kengo Kuma, in Tokyo. Above right: Women walk by Sunny Hills, known as the "Pineapple House," also designed by Kuma.

warmth and kindness as it is adept in the use of natural light and artisanal craftsmanship, such as bamboo and paper. It is "working together like music," to create a comfortable and luxurious spot even in a cramped space, the basic principle of a Japanese tea house, Kuma said.

"It's part of our genetic make-up," Kuma told The Associated Press, sitting in his Tokyo studio among elegant chairs designed by himself and others by Ludwig Mies van der Rohe and pointing with disgust at the vaulting skyscrapers visible from his window.

"People all over the world are sick and tired of modern monuments," he said. "The desire for the human and the gentle is a backlash to the globalization that brought all these monster skyscrapers."

Son Fujimoto, another rising Japanese architect, is also working all over the world.

His beachside cultural center in Serbia is a giant spiral, while a bungalow in southern Japan is a cube of wooden blocks. His Serpentine Pavilion in London of metal lattice has been compared to a floating cloud. In Montpelier, France, construction begins next year for a housing complex he has designed with balconies sprouting precariously at all angles from a tower.

"This understanding of the con-

nection between nature and the man-made is Japanese," Fujimoto said. "The Japanese garden utilizes nature while also being finely crafted. You go back and forth between those two points."

In a telling sign of their rising stature, four of the winners of the prestigious Pritzker Architecture Prize in the last six years have been Japanese: Kazuyo Sejima, Ryue Nishizawa, Toyo Ito and Shigeru Ban.

In the past, the winners were few and far between. Kenzo Tange, known for his statuesque, curvaceous Tokyo Olympic stadium, won the Chicago-based Pritzker in 1987; Fumihiko Maki, who infused an Eastern sensibility into his floating forms of glass, metal and concrete, won in 1993; and the self-taught and idiosyncratic Tadao Ando was the third Japanese to win, nine years after Tange.

Sejima, who works with Nishizawa, is coveted for her trademark ethereally white designs, often using glass, such as the Musée Louvre-Lens in France, the Christian Dior building in Tokyo and the Zollverein School in Germany.

Ban, this year's Pritzker winner, carved out his career by using recycled paper tubes as construction material, and his housing ideas have been widely praised for their use as temporary housing after disasters.

When people were crammed in a gym after the 2011 tsunami in northeastern Japan, his idea of hanging cloth as partitions on paper-tubing frames delivered privacy and a sense of mental peace.

Fuji Kindergarten in Tachikawa, outside Tokyo, by Takaharu and Yui Tezuka, also illustrates the characteristically Japanese idea of fusing the outside with the inside.

The walls of the doughnut-shaped building are glass, and they open as sliding doors into a courtyard. The spherical roof works as a playground, for the children to run around and around.

The couple often uses the roof for living space, and they swear sitting side by side on a sloped surface, like a riverbank, as opposed to facing each other across a table,

'People all over the world are sick and tired of modern monuments. The desire for the human and the gentle is a backlash to the globalization that brought all these monster skyscrapers.'

Kengo Kuma
architect

is good for human relations.

With Japanese architecture, a slight change of approach transforms a roof into something more than just a roof, in the same way the artistry with which a chef cuts and presents raw fish transforms it into sashimi, Takaharu Tezuka said.

"Some European and American architects say it's important to have intermediate space, between inside and outside," he said. "But our approach is different. Everything is intermediate."

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AMERICAN ROUNDUP

Chicken crossing road blocks traffic — no joke

OR PORTLAND — Portland police were told there was a chicken — and it was attempting to cross the road.

In fact, the citizen who called the police nonemergency line on Monday evening reported that the chicken's efforts to cross a road in a north Portland neighborhood were bringing traffic nearly to a standstill.

He assured the dispatcher he was not joking.

The dispatcher chuckled — and asked a clarifying question.

"It's just the one chicken?" The caller said yes.

Sgt. Pete Simpson said police "were unable to determine the chicken's intent."

Artists: We switched Brooklyn Bridge flags

NY NEW YORK — Two German artists have claimed responsibility for replacing American flags on the Brooklyn Bridge with faded white versions last month in an urban mystery that exposed holes in security at one of the city's most enduring landmarks.

Berlin-based Mischa Leinkauf and Mattias Wermke said Tuesday that they hoisted the hand-sewn white flags onto the 131-year-old bridge's neo-gothic stone towers as a celebration of public art in "the global center of creativity."

They said they switched the flags early on July 22 to commemorate the 145th anniversary of German-born Brooklyn Bridge architect John August Roebling's death.

Hoax report: Cougar escaped from pet store

SC AIKEN — Officers in South Carolina spent hours searching for a mountain lion on the loose from a pet store — but police now say the threat was based on a false report.

Police said Bill Lunford, 55, reported the escaped animal about 1 a.m. Sunday in Aiken. He said a burglar broke into a pet store and let the animal loose. Police warned residents that the domesticated, declawed mountain lion was 3 feet tall and 100 pounds, wearing a dog harness.

Aiken Police told WRDQ-TV that about a dozen officers looked for the cat for up to 18 hours.

Police now say the report was a hoax. Lunford was charged with filing a false police report.

Deaths of 3 in car are blamed on overheating

MD HAGERSTOWN — A woman and her two young daughters found dead in their car in a middle school parking lot in June died from accidental overheating, the Maryland Office of the Chief Medical Examiner said Tuesday.

The formal cause of death was hyperthermia and environmental heat exposure, Maryland Office of the Chief Medical Examiner spokesman Bruce Goldfarb said. He said the autopsy reports won't be out for at least a month.

Guyanese immigrant Allison

THE CENSUS

\$102K

The value of whiskey allegedly drank by John Saunders, 63, of Irwin, Pa., who was supposed to be safeguarding the liquor. A district judge last year ordered Saunders to stand trial on criminal charges, but the Tribune-Review reported Saunders died July 21, ending the case.

Patricia Hill, owner of the South Broadway Manor Bed and Breakfast, told police she found nine 12-bottle cases of whiskey hidden in the century-old mansion built by industrialist J.P. Brennan

after she bought it in 2011. According to court records, Hill hired Saunders to care for the property. When Hill went to have the pre-Prohibition Old Farm Pure Rye Whiskey appraised in March 2012 she discovered 52 empty bottles.



PATRICK DODSON, THE (SCHENECTADY, N.Y.) GAZETTE/AP

World War II charm

A commemorative World War II B-17 Flying Fortress stands at the Empire State Aerosciences Museum at Schenectady County Airport in Glenville, N.Y., on Tuesday. Guided tours of the airplane are available during events marking the 30th anniversary of the museum.

Keyonda Pluck, formerly Allison Lancaster, 32, was found dead in her silver Nissan sedan June 16 along with the bodies of Shanika Gill, 18 months, and Shameka Gill, 6 months. The mother was reclined in the driver's seat and the girls were strapped in their child seats in the back with the windows closed, the ignition off and the doors unlocked, police said.

So far no one has paid capital's marijuana fine

DC WASHINGTON — Nearly three dozen civil citations have been issued in the District of Columbia since marijuana possession was decriminalized, but so far none of the fines has been paid.

Violators have 14 days from the time a ticket is issued to pay the \$25 fine or contest the ticket, so some of those fines could be paid in coming days.

So far, though, the city's Office of Administrative Hearings said none of the 35 tickets issued between July 17 and Aug. 8 have

been paid.

USS Arizona shrine wall to be replaced

HI HONOLULU — A marble wall with the names of the 1,177 sailors and Marines killed on the USS Arizona will be replaced during the next two months.

National Park Service spokeswoman Amanda Carona told the Honolulu Star-Advertiser that the shrine room at the Arizona Memorial will be closed off but will be visible to visitors. She said most of the work will be done after hours.

The original wall was replaced in 1984. The current wall has become stained and eroded from salt water.

2 dead, 3 wounded in violent rampage

GA CARTERSVILLE — Northwest Georgia authorities are trying to untangle the details of a violent rampage that left two people dead and three

wounded Tuesday when a gunman shot multiple victims at one house, crashed a car into another house, shot the occupant, committed a carjacking, crashed the vehicle and shot himself in the head.

Bartow County Sheriff Clark Millsap said the gunman fled the initial scene and crashed a car into a house where he kicked in the door and shot an occupant in the hand.

Millsap said the shooter then carjacked an elderly man and his grandson and crashed their vehicle into a truck. The impact caused a fire and the gunman then killed himself. Neither the man nor child was injured in the carjacking.

Growing wine industry poised for harvest

KS WICHITA — It's grape harvest time in Kansas, and the state's growing wine industry is expecting a big crop this year.

The Kansas Grape Growers & Winemakers Association said the state has 35 registered wineries

and vineyards. Most are small, with two to five acres of grapes, rather than large-scale farms.

The Wichita Eagle reported the state's climate doesn't allow wineries to grow well-known grapes such as Cabernet or Merlot. They grow hybrids that include part of the heartier native American grapes.

Frat house to become upscale student housing

AZ TUCSON — A University of Arizona building that housed a now-disgraced fraternity is being converted into high-end student housing.

The Arizona Daily Star reported that the university is remodeling the \$1.8 million Greek Row house to fit approximately 62 students along with two residence advisers.

The house was formerly occupied by Phi Gamma Delta Fraternity, which has been investigated for hazing and serving alcohol to minors.

From wire reports

FAITH



Changing Islam

PHOTOS BY DAMIAN DOVARGANES/AP

Openly gay American Muslim Omar Akersim, 26, sits on his prayer rug Aug. 1 at his home in Los Angeles.

Progressive Muslim movement in America accepts once-taboo causes

By GILLIAN FLACCUS
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES—Omar Akersim prays regularly and observes the dawn-to-dusk Ramadan fast. He is also openly gay.

Akersim, 26, is part of a small but growing number of American Muslims challenging the long-standing interpretations of Islam that defined their parents' world. They believe that one can be gay and Muslim; that the sexes can pray shoulder-to-shoulder; that females can preach; and that Muslim women can marry outside the faith—and they point to Quran passages to back them up.

The shift comes as young American Muslims work to reshape the faith they grew up with so it fits better with their complex, dual identity, with one foot in the world of their parents' immigrant beliefs and one foot in the ever-shifting cultural landscape of America. The result has been a growing internal dialogue about what it means to be Muslim, as well as a scholarly effort to re-examine the Quran for new interpretations that challenge rules that had seemed set in stone.

"Islam in America is being forced to kind of change and to re-evaluate its positions on things like homosexuality because of how we're moving forward culturally as a nation," said Akersim, who leads a Los Angeles-based support group for gay Muslims. "It's striving to make itself seen

and known in the cultural fabric and to do that, it does have to evolve. Ten or 15 years ago, that would have been impossible."

The shift doesn't end with breaking obvious taboos, either. Young American Muslims are making forays into fashion and music and stirring things up with unorthodox takes on staples of American pop culture. A recent controversial YouTube video, for example, shows Muslim hipsters—or "Mipsterz"—skateboarding in head scarves and skinny jeans as Jay-Z's "Somewhere in America" blasts in the background.

Nearly 40 percent of the estimated 2.75 million Muslims in the U.S. are American-born and the number is growing, with the Muslim population skewing younger than the U.S. population at large, according to a 2011 Pew Research Center survey.

Advocates for a more tolerant Islam say the constraints on interfaith marriage and homosexuality aren't in the Quran, but are based on conservative interpretations of Islamic law that have no place in the U.S. Historically, in many Muslim countries, there are instances of unsegregated prayers and interfaith marriage.

"I think it's fair to say the traditional Islam that we experienced excluded a lot of Muslims that were on the margins," said Tanziya Ahmed, 35, who published an anthology of love stories by Muslim American women in 2012



The book "Progressive Muslims" is placed next to the Quran, the Muslim holy book, at the home of Omar Akersim.

called "Love Inshallah." "I always felt not very welcomed by the type of Islam my parents practiced."

Many second-generation American Muslims still practice their faith in traditional ways, but others are starting to see the Islam of their parents as more of a cultural identity, said Dr. Yvonne Haddad, a Georgetown University professor who has written extensively about Islam's integration into U.S. society.

As a result, there's a new emphasis on meeting for prayer and socializing in neutral spaces, such as community centers instead of mosques, and on universal inclusion.

"Some of them still want a

mosque, they still want to belong and to pray and others are shifting and they are very comfortable being nonreligious," Haddad said. "These people feel that they can get rid of the hang-ups of what the culture has defined as Muslim and maintain the beliefs and values, the spiritual values, and feel very comfortable by shedding all the other restrictions that society has put on them."

In Los Angeles, a religious group called Muslims for Progressive Values has been pushing the boundaries with a female imam who performs same-sex and interfaith marriages, support groups for gay Muslims and a worship style that includes

women giving sermons and men and women praying together. The group has chapters in half a dozen major U.S. cities and at least six foreign countries and last year was recognized by the United Nations as an official non-governmental organization.

Founder Ani Zonneveld, a Muslim singer and songwriter of Malaysian descent, started the group in 2007 after she recorded some Islamic pop music that generated a backlash because it featured a Muslim woman singing.

"For us, the interpretation of Islam is egalitarian values—and by egalitarian it's not just words that we speak. It's practice," she said. "It's freedom of religion and from religion, too."

Akersim, the gay Muslim, knows first-hand how hard that shift will be.

Last year, he fled his parents' home in the middle of the night after they called him at work and demanded to know when he was going to get married. He stays in touch with his mother, but hasn't spoken to his father in a year and a half.

Now, he avoids mosques but prays privately. He has no regrets about coming out, he said.

"All these struggles that I've had to endure have only brought me closer to God," Akersim said. "Within that storm, I feel like I've been able to persevere because of my faith, because of this strength from God."

WEEKEND



Spoon doles out
new tunes

Page 36



Fair game

Previous players' decisions affect play
in Afghan War-based 'The Sun Also Rises'

Page 26

Animal attraction

Walk on the
wild side at zoo
in Karlsruhe

Travel, Page 28



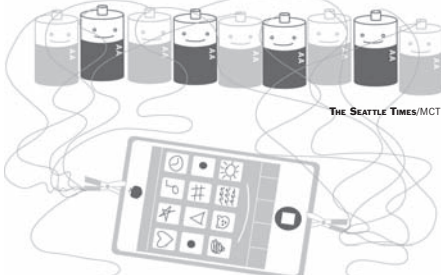
Slurpable specialty

Ramen again
hot menu item
in Far East

Travel, Page 35



WEEKEND: GADGETS & CHARTS



THE SEATTLE TIMES/MCT

Stay juiced up on the go

By JIM ROSSMAN
The Dallas Morning News

We've all been in a situation where it's getting late in the day, and you glance at the battery level on your phone and realize your phone's about to die.

So how can you keep the power on? It takes some forethought. First is to put your phone on the charger when you go to bed.

You always want to walk out of your house in the morning with a 100 percent charge.

I have an iHome clock radio on my nightstand that has a dock for my phone. The last thing I do before bed is make sure the phone is in the dock.

My car has a phone mount that has a charging cable so I can charge the phone as I drive. I don't need to do this in the morning, but I make it a habit to put the phone in the mount whenever I'm driving, whether I plug in the charger or not. The mount enables me to see maps or glance at who's calling before I answer with my Bluetooth audio system.

So if I have a lunch meeting, I'll plug in to get even a 10 percent to 20 percent boost on the way to lunch.

I keep a phone dock on my desk at work, and I try to keep the phone in the dock when I'm at my desk.

So my phone has a charger available 24 hours a day, but I realize not everyone is like me.

If you regularly run down your phone's battery during the day, there are two items you should buy.

The first is an external battery. I've seen external batteries in all sizes and shapes. Some are as small as a lipstick and some are as large as a paperback book.

They are rechargeable and are charged up with a USB cable or wall plug. The bigger the battery, the more power it will provide.

Larger ones can charge your phone four or more times. Smaller ones might just let you get half a charge.

Of course, you'll need the right cable with the battery.

I carry the Anker Astro 3 (\$45.99 from Amazon) in my bag. It has a 1200mAh battery that will charge the average smart-phone six times.

The second item you should buy is a battery case for your phone.

I realize a battery case is not available for all phones, but companies like Mophie have cases for the most popular Apple, Samsung and HTC phones.

The case has an extra battery inside that you turn on when your phone needs a charge.

Mophie's Juice Packs run about \$99.95 and can provide about one charge for your phone.

If you can't get a battery case for your phone, buy an external battery and keep it handy. Hopefully, you won't run out of juice again.

GADGET WATCH

Portraiture for Video smooths skin

By GREGG ELLMAN
McClatchy-Tribune News Service

Portraiture for Video is video editing software that allows video enthusiasts to soften skin and remove blemishes, wrinkles, etc. during video editing.

If this sounds familiar to still photographers, there is a reason. Portraiture has been used in the professional still image industry for years for softening and enhancing skin tones.

Now the company Imaginomic has brought the same award-winning features to the video world.

According to a recent press release, Portraiture for Video is compatible with Adobe After Effects, Adobe Premiere Pro, Apple Final Cut Pro, Sony Vegas Pro and DaVinci Resolve.

Video clips are simply run through the plug-in software, and it automatically removes imperfections in the skin.

The software is ideal for touching up a scar, acne or other skin blemishes and runs on Mac and Windows operating systems.

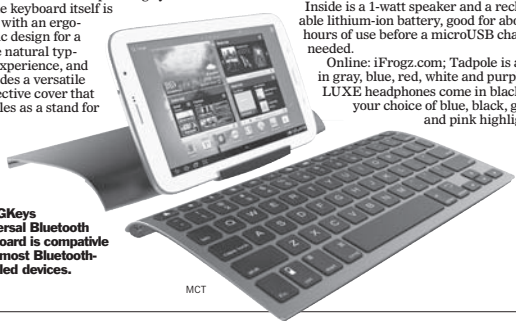
Online: imaginomic.com/ptvideo. A free 15-day trial is available; the annual subscription rate for the software is \$99.

The ZAGGKeys Universal keyboard functions with most devices, including smartphones, tablets and almost any operating system, as long as both can be paired via Bluetooth technology. It's designed and built with features allowing it to work with any of those gadgets, making it a truly universal device.

It measures 5.25 inches wide by 9.25 inches long with the cover attached. The curved keyboard is as slim as one-quarter inch, making it ideal for use while sitting on the sofa, working at your desk or tucking it away in your computer bag for travel.

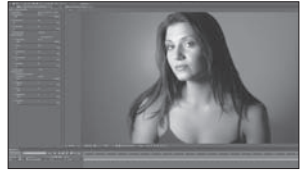
Many mobile operating systems have different systems for shortcuts and hot keys on keyboards. There's a little switch on the back of the ZAGGKeys keyboard to switch between Apple, Android or Window operating systems.

The keyboard itself is built with an ergonomic design for a more natural typing experience, and includes a versatile protective cover that doubles as a stand for



ZAGGKeys Universal Bluetooth keyboard is compatible with most Bluetooth-enabled devices.

MCT



IMAGINOMIC/MCT

Imaginomic, an independent software vendor specializing in digital imagery enhancement solutions, has announced that its Portraiture software to soften and enhance skin tones in still photographs is now available for video.

your tablet or smartphone.

Other features include a rechargeable battery, which can be good for up to three months before another charge is needed.

Online: Zagg.com; \$69.99, available in black, berry/aqua, charcoal/hot pink, lime/charcoal and orange/indigo combinations.

The LUXE stereo headphones and the Tadpole are other cool and cost-friendly products from iFrogz (a ZAGG company).

The LUXE headphones don't cost a lot (\$39.99), are comfortable to wear and deliver what I call "consistent sound."

What I mean by that is you're not going to get the great sound associated with \$400 headphones; instead you get good, steady sound with enough bass to keep you happy.

They took good and are built with comfortable padded ear cups over 40 mm driver speakers, an adjustable metallic-looking headband and have an inline mic for hands-free calls.

The Tadpole (\$19.99) is as simple as a Bluetooth speaker can be, measuring just 2.67 x 0.43 x 1.38 inches. It's pocket sized and comes with an attached carabiner clip.

Inside is a 1-watt speaker and a rechargeable lithium-ion battery, good for about two hours of use before a microUSB charge is needed.

Online: iFrogz.com; Tadpole is available in gray, blue, red, white and purple. The LUXE headphones come in black with your choice of blue, black, gray, red and pink highlights.

ON THE COVER: "The Sun Also Rises" is a video game that aims to bring to light the lesser-seen angles of the Global War on Terrorism.

Horse Volume

ITUNES MUSIC

Top 10 songs on the iTunes Store for Aug. 13:

1. "Best Mistake," Ariana Grande
2. "All About That Bass," Meghan Trainor
3. "Bang Bang," Jessie J, Ariana Grande & Nicki Minaj
4. "Break Free," Ariana Grande
5. "Bd," M.A.G.I.C.I
6. "Stay With Me," Sam Smith
7. "Rather Be," Clean Bandit
8. "Burnin' It Down," Jason Aldean
9. "Chandelier," Sia
10. "Problem," Ariana Grande

— Compiled by MCT

SPOTIFY MUSIC

The top streamed tracks on Spotify for Aug. 4-10:

1. "Stay With Me," Sam Smith
2. "Bd," M.A.G.I.C.I
3. "Fancy," Iggy Azalea
4. "Chandelier," Sia
5. "Am I Wrong," Nico & Vinz
6. "Problem," Ariana Grande
7. "Break Free," Ariana Grande
8. "All About That Bass," Meghan Trainor
9. "Bang Bang," Jessie J, Ariana Grande & Nicki Minaj
10. "Maps," Maroon 5

— Compiled by The Associated Press

ITUNES MOVIES

Top 10 movies downloaded from the iTunes Store for Aug. 13:

1. "Neighbors"
2. "Divergent"
3. "Dead Poets Society"
4. "The Other Woman"
5. "Mrs. Doubtfire"
6. "Good Morning, Vietnam"
7. "Blended"
8. "The Amazing Spider-Man 2"
9. "Muppets Most Wanted"
10. "Noah"



— Compiled by MCT

VIDEO GAMES

Game Informer ranks the Top 10 PlayStation 3 games for August:

1. "Dark Souls II: Crown of the Sunken King"
2. "Ultra Street Fighter IV"
3. "Wolfenstein: The New Order"
4. "Minercraft: PlayStation 3 Edition"
5. "The Walking Dead Season 3 Episode 4 — Amid the Ruins"
6. "Watch Dogs"
7. "Another World: 20th Anniversary Edition"
8. "Grid Autosport"
9. "Sacred 3"
10. "The Wolf Among Us Season 1 Episode 5 — Cry Wolf"

— Compiled by MCT

APPS

Top 5 new free apps for Aug. 13:

ANDROID

1. Rock Hero
2. Crazy Taxi: City Rush
3. Family Feud 2
4. Ice Age Adventures
5. Toilet & Bathroom Rush

Top 5 free apps for Aug. 13:

APPLE

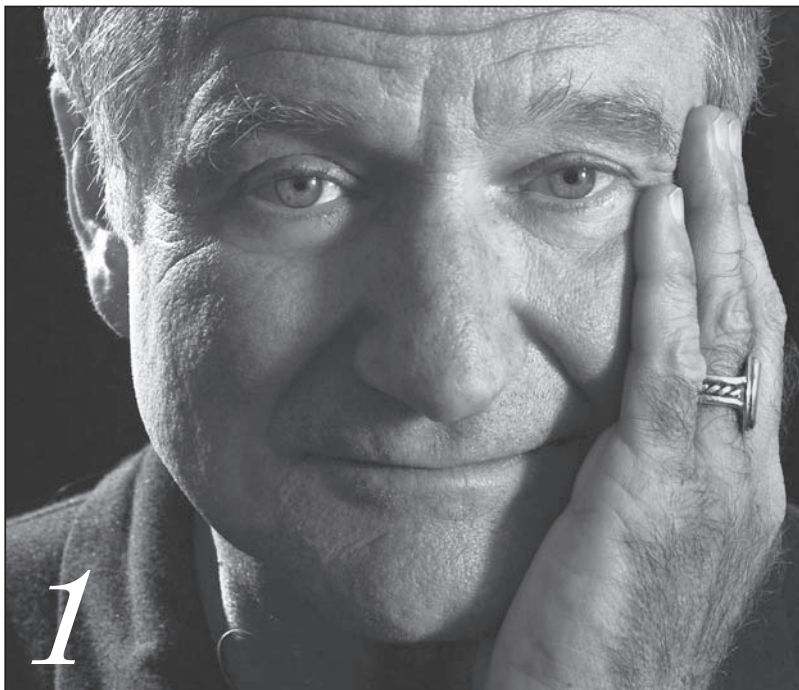
1. Facebook
2. Snake/Snake/Snake
3. Run Forrest Run
4. Walmart App
5. Free Music

— Compiled by MCT

WEEKEND

CHECK IT OUT

Events, entertainment and other ways to fill your free time



Robin Williams, shown in August 2009, died Aug. 11 at age 63. Fans around the world are remembering him this week.

Remembering Robin Williams

By all accounts, actor-comedian Robin Williams loved to make people laugh. And he was so very, very good at it.

His death this week took his fans by surprise.

What better way to remember his legacy than to watch your favorite Williams movie? **See Page 24** for a list of seven of his most famous film roles.

If you'd prefer a quick clip, or to view a comedic bit of Williams' work that you haven't seen, or perhaps an entire standup comedy routine — where Williams' wacky ad-libbing abilities were put to best use — we can point you to some of those as well.

- **Rolling Stone** has compiled a list called "Robin Williams: A History in 15 Jokes." It calls the list "a stem-to-stern sampling of what this comedian did best: Crack people up." It's at tinyurl.com/15jokes
- A sportscaster in Atlanta hit a verbal home run

with sports fans and Williams fans alike by working 21 of Williams' movie titles, one television show and one quote from "Dead Poets Society" into a 2½-minute segment. Watch at tinyurl.com/RWtribute

- "Late Night" host Jimmy Fallon included a tribute to Williams in his show Tuesday in which Fallon called Williams the "Muhammad Ali of comedy." Fallon showed Williams' first "Tonight Show" appearance, then hosted by Johnny Carson. Watch Williams bounce into the audience, mess with the cameraman and get his Shakespeare on at tinyurl.com/p5grw5s.

- Podcaster Mark Maron has re-posted a touching, insightful and, of course, at times hilarious interview with Williams from April 2010 at Williams' home. Listen at tinyurl.com/RWwtft.

2

Late-August laughs with 'Let's Be Cops'

Movie lovers know that late summer is not the time to be expecting the best-quality material to land at the theater. But sometimes it's nice to let the movie play, lounge in air-conditioned comfort and enjoy some easy laughs. To that end, "Let's Be Cops," now in base theaters, holds some promise. Nobodies played by Jake Johnson of TV's "New Girl" and a new generation of Wayans, Damon Wayans Jr., don police officer uniforms, and ... well, you can probably imagine the comic potential.

- **Movie review on Page 35.**

3

Questlove performs with Kings of Leon

Questlove, the drummer for "Tonight Show" host Jimmy Fallon's house band the Roots, filled in nicely on Tuesday night for ailing Kings of Leon drummer Nathan Followill. The band's tour bus had to stop suddenly last week to avoid hitting a pedestrian, and now has canceled the rest of its August tour dates to allow Followill to recover from a broken rib that resulted. On Tuesday, the talented Questlove, with "QOL" amusingly duct-taped to one of his drums, ably filled Followill's seat on "Late Night" on the band's hit song "Family Tree" from last year's "Mechanical Bull" album.

- **Watch the performance at** tinyurl.com/Qfamilytree.

WEEKEND: APPRECIATION



Robin Williams 1951-2014

A freewheeling performer who never seemed to age

By MARY McNAMARA
Los Angeles Times

One of the drawbacks of a life captured on film is the irrefutable evidence of time passing. The camera can hide many things, but not the fact that people, even famous people, grow old. Right before our eyes.

With the possible exception of Robin Williams.

Even as his hairline retreated and the wrinkles appeared, Williams, who burst into the collective consciousness at 27 as the irrepressible rainbow-suspended alien in "Mork and Mindy," never seemed to age.

He exuded a manic energy that, if anything, seemed even more youthful as the years passed. His eyes sparked with ideas that you could all but see streaking past like a thousand bright blue fish. His comedic signature was the free-form, free-wheeling monologue, a frothy torrent of words and voices and sounds that poured out of him in no apparent order, save his own essential, mysterious understanding of comedy.

Even when he wasn't speaking, his mouth turned down in a perpetual twitch of one more thing, a thought unsaid, or about to be said, or too rash to be said.

I could now tell you the story of a time we met, which was funny and sad and now seems strangely meaningful, as these things often do in the wake of such a tragedy. But the fact that I spent some time with the actual Robin Williams doesn't matter because even though I know he was simply a man, with talent and troubles like the rest of us, that

is not what he was to me, or millions of other people.

He was more than a star. He was a fixed point in the universe.

No matter how many times we are reminded of the relentlessly democratic nature of mortality, there are people who seem exempt. For those of us who came of age with "Mork and Mindy," who spent our lives watching the zany sitcom star shift to successful stand-up comedian, then to serious film star and back again to TV, Robin Williams was one of them.

His brain defied gravity, his face was made of rubber, the laughter he inspired surely must echo far into deep space and his death at 63 seems almost impossible.

We knew that he, like so many of his colleagues, battled drugs and alcohol and had a somewhat scandalous love life. Yet there he was, year after year, reinventing himself, resurrecting himself, finding some other way to channel what must have been an exhausting if inexhaustible will to perform.

He gave voice to Vietnam, a drag-queen nanny and a blue genie; he brought board games and penguins and Teddy Roosevelt to life. He was nominated for an Oscar for "Good Morning, Vietnam" and "Dead Poets Society" before winning with "Good Will Hunting."

It's hard to think of another actor who has moved so fluidly through so many genres, whose roles remain so disparate, so desperate, so high-percentage iconic.

Indeed, his many one-man shows, live and on television, were almost redundant — whenever Williams performed, he was a one-man show, the physical embodiment of drama's weeping and laughing masks, proof

positive that puer aeternus was neither a myth nor necessarily a pejorative.

He traded on it, sure, the boy who wouldn't, or couldn't, grow up. He played Peter Pan, literally in "Hook" and figuratively in many roles, including "Mrs. Doubtfire," "The Birdcage" and, most recently, the brilliant ad man of "The Crazy Ones." But it was real, that effervescence, and child-like in that it seemed based more on hope than experience, tinged with pain as hope so often is.

Indeed, his work in "The Crazy Ones" felt at times almost uncomfortably autobiographical. In the David E. Kelley sitcom, Williams played Simon Roberts, a post-middle-aged ad whiz who, after finally getting sober, has taken his co-dependent caregiver of a daughter (played by Sarah Michelle Gellar) on as a business partner.

Though leaning hard on the manic angle, Williams brought such genuine fear to Simon's desire to see if he still has it, such palpable conflict to his mix of regret over and nostalgia for the bad old days, that the show suffered from an identity crisis. People looking for one version of Williams or the other got instead something caroming out of all of them. Something so real it seemed out of place.

Stars fall and fade, collapse or burn out. But sometimes they just vanish, impossible, for no good reason, and the universe crows in on itself wondering how something that blazed so brightly could suddenly just be gone.

Robin Williams was 63 when he died, but we will never have a chance to see him grow old. Because he never did.

7 of his most memorable movie roles



"Good Morning, Vietnam" (1987): Having first made his name on the TV series "Mork & Mindy," Williams transitioned to big-screen comedies in the '80s and scored a hit with this Vietnam War tale directed by Barry Levinson. Williams put his irreverent, motormouthed humor to good use as an Air Force DJ who is sent to Saigon, where he quickly irritates his stad superior and wins over rank and file soldiers. Williams won a Golden Globe for lead actor in a comedy/musical and earned an Academy Award nomination for best actor.

"Dead Poets Society" (1989): Shifting gears from comedy, Williams showed his dramatic chops in Peter Weir's coming-of-age tale about an unorthodox English teacher (Williams) who inspires his students at an elite prep school by teaching them poetry and encouraging them to seize the day. Numerous critics praised Williams' performance, which garnered him another Oscar nomination.

"Hook" (1991): For a generation of moviegoers, Williams will no doubt be remembered as a fixture of their favorite family movies. Steven Spielberg's fantasy adventure "Hook" was one such film, in which Williams played a grown-up version of Peter Pan who has forgotten his magical past. The big-name, big-budget production (Dustin Hoffman and Julia Roberts also starred in the \$70-million movie) ran well past its shooting schedule and was marked by personality clashes, and "Hook" opened to poor reviews.

Even so, it was a commercial success (to the tune of \$300 million worldwide) and has developed a cult following over the years.

"Aladdin" (1992): Disney's animated musical based on the "Arabian Nights" folk tale was a critical and commercial hit, earning stellar reviews and grossing more than \$217 million domestically (and more than \$500 million worldwide),

making it the highest-grossing movie of the year. Critics lauded Williams' freewheeling, wisecracking performance as Genie, which was both broad enough to crack up kids and clever enough to give adults something to laugh about. Williams received a special achievement award at the Golden Globes for "a most unusual and outstanding performance which did not fit into any of the categories." "Aladdin" was also notable for putting a bona fide screen star in a voice-acting role, which soon became the norm in Hollywood animated movies. **"Mrs. Doubtfire"** (1993): Another classic family comedy, "Mrs. Doubtfire" found Williams donning an old-lady getup as Daniel Hillard, a struggling actor and divorced dad who impersonates a kindly British nanny to spend time with his kids. With an Oscar-winning makeup job, Williams disappeared into the title role and helped power the film to \$219 million at the domestic box office, behind only "Jurassic Park" that year. "Doubtfire" remains a beloved movie today, and a sequel was in the works before Williams' death.

"Good Will Hunting" (1997): Once again reining in his outsize comedic per-

sona, Williams appeared opposite Matt Damon in this Gus Van Sant-directed drama about an MIT janitor (Damon) who is actually a troubled self-gifted genius. Williams' performance as a tough-but-tender therapist who helps the young man open up won the actor his first and only Oscar. Williams, an expert at improvisation, also ad-libbed some scenes, including the last line of "One Hour Photo."

"Insomnia" (2002): After years of taking on jovial and avuncular characters, Williams played against type to chilling effect in the Christopher Nolan psychological thriller "Insomnia" (as well as in Danny DeVito's "Death to Smoochy" and Mark Romanek's "One Hour Photo," released the same year). In the snow-bound suspense tale, Williams starred as a crime novelist with a dark secret who's hunted by Al Pacino's unraveling detective. In a review for *The Times*, Kenneth Turan said "Insomnia" represented "perhaps the most compelling of (Williams') non-comic performances, noticeable for the way the character's unflappable calmness leads to greater and greater complexity."

—Oliver Gettel/Los Angeles Times

Williams as Air Force disc jockey Adrian Cronauer in the 1987 film "Good Morning Vietnam."

TOUCHSTONE PICTURES/AP

WEEKEND: MOVIES



Twentieth Century Fox

When two struggling pals dress as police officers for a costume party, they become neighborhood sensations. But when they get tangled in a web of mobsters and dirty detectives, they must put their fake badges on the line in "Let's Be Cops," starring Damon Wayans Jr. and Jake Johnson.

A lewd, low spoof

Few laugh-out-loud moments in 'Let's Be Cops'

BY ROGER MOORE

McClatchy-Tribune News Service

The laughs are loud, lewd and low in "Let's Be Cops," a spoof of buddy cop pictures that is pretty much the definition of "an August comedy."

The last month of summer is typically a dumping ground for titles studios don't have high hopes for. Sometimes, that's due to the lack of marketable stars. Sometimes, they're just too hard to market, period. And sometimes, if they're comedies, it's because the belly laughs are few and far between. All of those apply here.

Jake Johnson of TV's "New Girl" is paired up with another generation of Wayans — Damon Wayans Jr. — in this farce about two Ohio losers losing their way through Los Angeles, a tough place to be a single guy with zero status.

Justin (Wayans) is a meek and mousy video game developer who is so passive that he gives off a feminine vibe. Ryan (Johnson) is an ex-jock who once quarterbacked for Purdue, but now spends his days roughing up kids in pickup games on a local playground. Nobody gives either of these guys a second look.

Justin's cop-centric video game might have been rejected by his bullying boor of a boss, but the police gear he has around the house is handy to have when he and Ryan want to drop in on an alumni costume party. People there mistake them for police. Women eyeball these manly men in uniform. And Ryan, who used to feel the love of the crowd, gets hooked.

"Let's be cops!" Next thing you know, they're walking the streets, in uniform with fake guns and fake nametags — Justin is "Officer Chang." The cute waitress he'd like to reveal his true identity/sexuality to (Nina Dobrev) checks him out, so he's in. But Ryan is WAY in — trading his battered '80s Camaro for an eBay police cruiser, adding decals and lights, boning up on police procedure, listening for real police calls on a scanner.

"The plan is, we CONTROL the situation," he

New on base

"Let's Be Cops" is playing at the following military facilities:

Europe

Mildenhall, Ansbach, Baumholder, Grafenwöhr, Hohenfels, Ramstein, Spangdahlem, Stuttgart, Vilseck, Wiesbaden, Aviano, Vicenza and Brunnsun.

Pacific

Misawa, Yokota, Zama, Foster, Futenma, Hansen, Kadana, Kinser, Schwab, Courtney, Yongsan South Post No. 1, Casey, Henry, Humphreys, Kunsan and Osan.

Online: letsbecops.com

growls. "That's what the YouTube video says!"

Things get more and more out of hand, from domestic disturbances that turn out to be spirited sorority girl brawls, to tangles with the Russian mob. The psychotic head mobster Mossi (James D'Arcy) is not amused by "the new sheriffs in town."

Cowriter/director Luke Greenfield ("Something Borrowed") lets what few laughs there are in the script land. Johnson's timing is sharp, and Wayans has that Wayans way with dopey under-reactions to crazy situations.

The pairing of these two sometimes works, but Wayans has more of the name and the look than the edge or charismatic comic spark of his dad or his dad's funnier family members.

Johnson has made a number of smart indie film choices that allowed him to shine — "Drinking Buddies," "Safety Not Guaranteed." This one is far more conventional and seriously short of zingers.

"What's the WORST that could happen?"

The answer to that is, you could end up in a summer comedy that's barely funny enough to warrant — ahem — release in the summer.

"Let's Be Cops" is rated R for language including sexual references, some graphic nudity, violence and drug use. Running time: 104 minutes.

The jokes fall flat in 'Expendables 3'

BY CARY DARLING
Fort Worth Star-Telegram

There are three elements that could make a cartoon of an action film like "The Expendables 3" work: some cool, kinetic action slam-o-rama; witty one-liners; and a really good bad guy.

Well, "Ex3" gets one of them right — sort of. Mel Gibson brings the correct amount of steely crazy to his role as Stonebanks, an immoral arms dealer who, for the right price, just might sell you and everyone you know a nuclear weapon. (It probably helps that, considering the troubles in his personal life, he's believable playing a meanie.)

Still, that's not enough to salvage the third run-through of this full-employment act for aging crime fighters.

As the film begins, Barney Ross (Sylvester Stallone) is leading his team — including Gunnar (Dolph Lundgren), Toll Road (Randy Couture), Caesar (Terry Crews) and Lee Christmas (Jason Statham) — on a mission to rescue Doc (Wesley Snipes), a former Expendable who has been stuck in a jail in some unnamed hellhole of a country for eight years. Barney wants to get Doc out so he can help with another mission in Somalia.

But everything goes wrong and Caesar is seriously injured and hospitalized. The culprit? It's longtime Barney nemesis Stonebanks, of course.

Barney is shaken up by what's happened with Caesar and decides, if he's going to go back in and finish the job, he's not going to do it with his crew of old reliables. He couldn't bear it if something happened to them.

Instead, he breaks up the band and, thanks to well-connected friend Bonaparte (Kelsey Grammer), recruits a new gang of young toughs — guys with names like Thorn (Glen Powell), Smilee (Kellan Lutz), and Mars (Victor Ortiz), so you know they rock. And one of the guys is even a girl, Lura (Ronda Rousey).

The young guns trade insults with the vets, but no one's going to mistake this for an Eminem rap battle in "8 Mile."

But, almost as fast as you can say "are they really making a fourth one of these?" — the answer is yes — Barney's two armies have to team up to bring down the villainous Stonebanks, even though Stonebanks' many gun-toting henchmen don't seem even vaguely familiar with the concept of actually being able to hit a target. Barney even gets an assist from his old buddies Trench (Arnold Schwarzenegger), Drummer (Harrison Ford), Yin Yang (Jet Li) and Galgo (Antonio Banderas).

Little of this would matter if the film were punctuated with some breathtaking action. But the

New on base

"The Expendables 3" is playing at the following:

Europe

Mildenhall, Ansbach, Baumholder, Grafenwöhr, Hohenfels, Ramstein, Spangdahlem, Stuttgart, Vilseck, Wiesbaden, Aviano, Sigonella, Vicenza and Brunnsun.

Pacific

Atsugi, Misawa, Showboat, Village, Benny Decker, Fleet, Negishi, Yokota, Zama, Foster, Futenma, Hansen, Kadana, Kinser, Schwab, Courtney, Yongsan South Post No. 1, 2 and Casey, Henry, Humphreys, Kunsan and Osan.

Online:

theexpendables3film.com

lumbering direction from relative newcomer Patrick Hughes — this is his second full-length feature — means the hand-to-hand battles are edited in such a way that what's going on is a blur. Meanwhile, it's predictably explosions-a-go-go through the climax.

Written by Stallone, Creighton Claitor and Katrin Benedikt, "Ex3" doesn't resonate with snappy retorts like movies of this ilk should. The jokes fall flat as pancakes.

Sadly, the most expendable thing about "The Expendables 3" is the movie itself.

"The Expendables 3" is rated: PG-13 for violence, including intense gun battles and fight scenes, and for strong language. Running time: 126 minutes.

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THUR AUG 14 - WED AUG 20

Guardians of the Galaxy (PG-13): Thur 15:30, 17:45, 20:15; Fri 15:30, 17:45, 20:00, 22:30; Sat 13:30, 15:45, 18:00, 20:15, 22:30; Sun 13:30, 15:45, 18:00, 20:15, Mon - Wed 15:30, 17:45, 20:15

In Digital 3D: Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles (PG-13): Thur - Wed 18:00, 20:15; In 3D: Guardians of the Planet of the Apes (PG-13): Thur - Wed 18:30

The Expendables 3 (PG-13): Fri & Sat 20:00, 22:30; Sun 20:00, Mon & Tue 18:00, 20:15, Wed 18:00

Heretic (PG-13): Sat & Sun 16:30

How to Train Your Dragon 2 (PG): Sat & Sun 13:30

Lucy (PG-13): Thur & Fri 18:30, Sat & Sun 16:30, 18:30, Mon & Wed 18:30

Maleficent (PG): Thur 15:30

Planes 2: Fire & Rescue (PG): Sat 13:30

In 2D: Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles (PG-13): Fri 15:30, 22:30, Sat 15:15, 22:30; Sun 15:15, Mon - Wed 15:30

Transformers: Age of Extinction (PG-13): Sat 17:00

Kino = Movie - Movie = Kino



Check movie listings for base theaters at stripes.com/military-life

WEEKEND: VIDEO GAMES

A new kind of war game

'The Sun Also Rises' looks to inform gamers on 'complicated, fractal war' in Afghanistan

By SAM LANEY
Stars and Stripes

When you think of war in video games, the strongest associations are to the testosterone-filled first-person shooters of the modern era. "Call of Duty," "Battlefield," "Counter-Strike" — games that go through great pains to depict the ferocity and excitement of battle, while leaving the emotional consequences out of it (try as they might with the addition of dogs).

If indie game developer Horse Volume gets its way, games might be able to take war storytelling to a new level. Lead developer Ty Underwood sat down with Stars and Stripes for an interview about his project "The Sun Also Rises," which vows to explore the human interactions and emotional toll of the Global War on Terrorism.

We got Underwood's thoughts on the current state of mainstream war games, the complications of telling a story about a conflict that's ongoing, and how a narrative with passive multiplayer could help better reveal the complicated nature of war.

Stars and Stripes: Hello, thanks for joining us. Let's dive right into the first question that's going to pop into anyone's mind when they try to Google this: Why "The Sun Also Rises," and can you compete [with] the Google index ranking for the Ernest Hemingway novel?

Ty Underwood: (Laughs) The name has interesting thematic connections to some of the same things Hemingway was doing. And also, the sun imagery. We were both interested in the Bible quote that the name originally came from in Ecclesiastes. But so far, if you look up "The Sun Also Rises" trailer, we're starting to beat out a BBC movie that came out 20 years ago.

What are your thoughts on the way mainstream, AAA war games present conflict?

Just like there's room in the world for crappy action movies, I think there's room in the world for crappy action games. Not crappy in the sense that they're bad, but their stories are pulpy, and show a very dramatized idea. A little bit of hero worship, a little bit of escapism. That's fine, but there's some work to be built on — like "Spec. Ops: The Line" [where] there's a little bit of bait and switch. It presents itself as the shooter, where it's brown, kind of action-y, but it kind of pulls the rug out from under you. There's been a couple of games in the past that kind of do that sort of thing; they comment on how games work. And in a lot of ways, we're building off that evolution, and taking a more literary push into it.

What we're trying to do is take the interviews and discussion that we've had with people and filter them through this narrative lens and through the lens of

academics, and turn it into this engaging story. That's the thing that games haven't done before.

The game's visual style seems to call back to something like 'Journey,' especially the scene of memorials toward the end of the trailer. What's the idea behind the visual style? How much do you expect it might change?

There's a really old game called "Another World" that one guy made. [It's] this interesting sort of vertex, kind of angular game. That was a visual inspiration that was really interesting. As far as the color palette goes, we're really looking at traditional Afghan and Pakistani art — taking a lot of the textiles and vibrant cloth work — and working that into the whole world.

We're paring down the details of what you see when you play the game because we're trying to focus on composition and gesture — all these specific ways that people communicate. So getting rid of dirt textures, wall textures and detailed facial features helps it stay more focused.

We like where it is right now, but we aren't 100 percent sold on every single aspect of it. If the game requires it, we could change any part of it.

Have you found it strange or difficult to tell the story of a war that's ongoing?

The further we are away from anything in history, the easier it is to focus on the broad strokes. Kind of do what historians call "great man history" — focus on particular players and make it a neat package. Since we're in the middle of the war right now, it's far from a neat package. It's very confusing and complicated. But that allows us to focus on the very tangible individual stories within the conflict — because those have not been lost to time yet.

The game's main theme seems to hark back to something like that of a Telltale game. Is that accurate? What are your main influences on this project when it comes to game-play?

I'm a big fan of Telltale games, and that kind of [narrative style] goes back to the first "Fallout" game. I want to expand on those [games] by making a dialogue system that doesn't just present choices.

We're focusing on something ... that will allow you to interrupt people or not understand somebody or have to talk in gestures instead of speech if you're not 100 percent on the same language page as other people. Sometimes your gestures are misunderstood from the way that you



Photos courtesy of Horse Volume

"The Sun Also Rises" is a multiplayer narrative adventure that explores the Global War on Terrorism through stories based on U.S. soldiers, their families and Afghan people. It focuses on the human struggle and portrays a side of war that's often overlooked.

meant them.

"Journey" had a really cool passive multiplayer system, where you just existed with other people through your journey. We came up with our own kind of passive multiplayer. When someone plays the game, some of their decisions are saved in

the cloud. When the next person plays the game, that changes how people react to them throughout the world and changes their experience.

A good example would be if a woman in Afghanistan has had certain kinds of dealings with soldiers, either good or bad, that's gonna completely change how she responds to or how she helps the next platoon that walks by. We're systemizing that a little bit by making it a passive multiplayer where previous people who have played the game kind of haunt the game for you, and you [will haunt] the next person.

Will players know when they're interacting with a character who has been influenced?

You'll know sometimes, and sometimes you'll just wonder if someone else made the game this

particular way for you. One of the stories we're looking at is the life and work of a CIA analyst in the modern world. A lot of what they do is about tracking different people's movements and behaviors and communicating

that to [soldiers] in the field. There's a lot of opportunity for confusion and miscommunication.

You're interviewing war veterans for this project. How do they inform the story? Will there be direct representations of their stories in the game, or will it be used

to color a completely fictional world?

There's a range. Some things that we've written into the story have happened to people literally, and some things are more of a coloring. One of the characters is an infantry combat medic from Helmand province, in southern Afghanistan. In that

case, we talked to a bunch of people doing that job in that area, so we have a really good collection of what that experience was like for those guys. That's a more literal approach in that case.

One guy [we interviewed] wrote fan fiction.

We want to take snippets of that and put those things here and there in the world. Just the interesting things about personalities and things, without betraying their identity or private conversations and things like that.

Tell us about your Kickstarter campaign.

One of the major reasons we're doing it is so we can do better research and interview people from Afghanistan; for instance, nationalized Afghan interpreters who come over to the U.S. who would be interested in talking to us.

Some people ask us if we're going to show both sides. It's not a two-sided thing; it's a very complicated, fractal thing. We're looking at getting as many perspectives as we can. That requires a little bit of money to travel and talk to people. And we're also looking to fund our development in the incubator to get the game done fast and at the highest level of quality that we can.

So we're looking for people who believe in the project to come and pledge and back us early on.

What's the game's development schedule look like?

Right now we're saying 2015. That's based on talking to other developers, and it looks like the game could take up to a year, but [will] likely be less than that.

laney.sam@stripes.com
Twitter: @stripesSam



WEEKEND

Europe

THE EUROPE EXPERIENCE



JOHAN PERSSON, CORNERSHIP/AP

Lucy Briggs-Owen as Viola with members of the cast of "Shakespeare in Love," appearing at London's Noel Coward Theatre.

DO THIS:

Fall for 'Shakespeare in Love'

A hit. A very palpable hit.

So says a character in the new West End production "Shakespeare in Love," quoting "Hamlet." And so say most London critics about the stage version of the Tudor-set rom-com showing at London's Noel Coward Theatre.

The Evening Standard's Henry Hitchings praised the play's "fizzy, infectious exuberance" while Paul Taylor in The Independent topped that with: "Deliciously funny. It makes you feel grateful to be alive."

Adapted by Lee Hall, co-produced by Disney and boasting a 28-member cast, the play sticks to the plot of the film that charmed its way to seven Academy Awards in 1998.

The burgeoning Bard (Tom Bateman) is young, broke and has writer's block — until he meets adventurous gentlewoman Viola de Lesseps (Lucy Briggs-Owen). She returns the playwright's ardor, and also dreams of becoming an actor, then a forbidden goal for a woman. But she is betrothed to the boorish Lord Wessex. The course of true love never did run smooth.

The play is peppered with Shakespearean in-jokes, designed to make audience members who were paying attention in high-school English classes feel clever.

Performance times are 7:30 p.m. Monday to Saturday and 2:30 p.m. Wednesday and Saturday. Find more information, including ticket prices, at shakespeareinlove.com.

From The Associated Press

TOP TRAVEL PICKS

Brussels flower carpet

Brussels' Grand Place is a stunning sight year-round, but imagine the UNESCO-listed square decked out in a colorful carpet.

Through Sunday, this is exactly the vision that awaits guests as the ground is blanketed by a huge floral tapestry.

The flower carpet, crafted of begonias, represents countless hours of work and planning. Each edition of the carpet, created only in even-numbered years, is completely different and based on a particular theme. This year, the 50th anniversary of Turkish immigration to Belgium is being commemorated with a design that resembles the style of carpet known as a kilim.

A total of 120 gardeners worked feverishly to complete the ambitious project before it was unveiled Thursday. Some 750,000 blossoms were used to create the floral masterpiece that stretches about 82 yards long and 27 yards wide.

Although access to the square is free, the carpet is perhaps best viewed from the balcony of the City Hall. Cost of entry is 5 euros (about \$6.70) for adults; admission is free for children under 10. Each evening at 10, 10:30 and 11, a light-and-sound show will complement the viewing.

For details, see flowercarpet.be.



Karen Bradbury

See the Europe Traveler blog at stripes.com/travel/europe-travel



Fireworks festival

If a sky lit up in flames makes your night, consider attending the Blazing Star International Fireworks Festival, running through Sunday in Ostfildern, Germany, a town about eight miles southeast of Stuttgart.

Some of the world's top pyrotechnicians show up for this annual event in a contest to convince both jury and the audience that their fireworks top them all. This year will see Dubai, Costa Rica and Germany battle it out in a blaze of glory from Friday through Sunday.

The festival takes place at the Scharnhäuser Park and opens with live bands, street artists and hot air balloons. A laser show helps the audience warm up for the fireworks. Sunday is family day, with plenty of activities geared toward children.

Gates open at 6 p.m. Friday and Saturday and at 4 p.m. Sunday. Friday's program features the fireworks from Dubai; on Saturday it's Costa Rica; Germany's turn comes on Sunday. Fireworks go off at 10:15 p.m.

Tickets cost 16 euros (about \$21.40) at the door; ages 6-13 pay 6 euros; those 5 and under enter for free. A family ticket — for two adults and their own children up to the age of 13 — costs 34 euros. A limited number of tickets with reserved seating for the fireworks are available for 25 euros per adult ticket.

Good with a camera? Submit your best shot of the event to its organizers for a chance to win shop vouchers or tickets to next year's event. Learn more at flammande-sterne.de/ostfildern/index.php.

Bamberg in blues

Got the blues? That's not a bad thing when you're in lovely Bamberg, Germany, over the weekend. Throughout the ultimate weekend of the eighth edition of the Tucher Blues & Jazz Festival, the streets of this half-timbered gem will echo with sound, as blues and jazz musicians from around the world take to the stage.

The festival, the largest such free event in the country, runs through Sunday at stages at Maxplatz and the Gabelmann fountain. In the evening, the Live Club on Obere Sandstrasse



Photo courtesy of flowercarpet.be

Through Sunday, visitors to Brussels' Grand Place can admire a giant carpet made of flowers. This year, the 19th edition of the flower carpet celebrates Turkish immigration with begonias arranged to simulate geometric patterns of Turkey's famous kilims. It's best viewed from the City Hall balcony, though there's an entry fee.

will keep the party going a bit longer. Several bands play over the course of the day, from local talents to groups and soloists from Australia, South Africa and elsewhere. The musical styles range from gospel to bluegrass.

This year's performers include a stalwart from the 1960s, The

Pretty Things (8:30 p.m. Friday, Maxplatz), and 15-year-old Alexandra Ulnir, winner of a children's talent show who took the festival by storm last year (11:30 a.m. Sunday, Gabelmann).

A complete list of performers can be found at tinyurl.com/krvocf9.



Looking for even more to do? For additional events, concerts and activities, go to stripes.com/military-life

WEEKEND: QUICK TRIPS

Europe

Creatures great and small

Zoo offers oasis from construction plaguing Karlsruhe

By GREGORY BROOME
Stars and Stripes

As a rule, there are plenty of compelling reasons to visit Karlsruhe, a prominent southwestern German city between Kaiserslautern and Stuttgart. Unfortunately, at the moment, there are at least as many reasons to leave.

The town is under construction. And I don't mean the scattershot assortment of orange cones and metal fences you'll encounter in most European cities of a certain size. I mean some serious, game-changing construction. Thick layers of dust and pallets of bricks. Gentle rolling hills of debris and blue tarps. Temporary wooden walkways suspended precariously over unfinished tunnels. It's basically a life-size version of the board game Mouse Trap.

There is, however, one worthy attraction left untouched by the chaos: the Karlsruhe Zoo.

The zoo is a sprawling urban green space similar to Kaiserslautern's familiar Gartenschau or Mannheim's celebrated Luisenpark, but it has way more animals than either. It's a proper, full-fledged zoo, with about 150 species of animals. The roster includes elephants, giraffes, hippos, big cats and sea lions, as well as an impressive house of monkeys and apes. Around those main attractions lie large enclosures of mountain goats and farm animals offering welcome moments of humor and personality to complement their more majestic neighbors.

The zoo grounds are defined by two sizable lakes, one at the south and another at the north end, and the bodies of water offer opportunities for relaxation. Ride a boat down the meandering stream that connects the two lakes, floating past fields of flowers and under scenic wooden bridges. Grab a bratwurst and park your party at water's edge to watch the fish and waterfowl. Or simply walk the paths that circle the water, crossing over the occasional bridge as you wander.

But the best thing about Karlsruhe Zoo, as any real estate agent will tell you three times, is



PHOTOS BY GREGORY BROOME/Stars and Stripes

Young visitors interact with an ape at Karlsruhe Zoo in Karlsruhe, Germany. The zoo is easily accessed from the city's central train station and attracts more than a million visitors a year.

its location.

In Europe, many city attractions are described as within "walking distance" from the central train station, and that always sounds so convenient. But any two places not separated by a gulf of water, deep ravine or unpassable mountain are technically within walking distance of each other. The Karlsruhe Zoo, however, is so close to the central station that you might mistake it for a train platform filled with unusually furry passengers. You can actually see the zoo gates from the lobby.

Given the dust and disorder that await you further into the city, this arrangement is fortunate. Spend a few hours wandering the considerable grounds of the zoo, then catch your return trip without running the risk of plummeting through an uncovered manhole downtown.

Eventually it will be worthwhile to schedule an entire day experiencing Karlsruhe at its best. For now, however, just go to the zoo and get out of there.

broome.gregory@stripes.com
Twitter: @broomestripes



NOGA ARAV/Stars and Stripes

ON THE QT

DIRECTIONS

From Kaiserslautern, take Autobahn 6 east, continue south on Autobahns 61 and 65 and cruise 65 right into Karlsruhe. From Stuttgart, Autobahn 8 will get you there. Park at the Hauptbahnhof, or main train station, and walk right into the zoo. An even better idea: Take the train to Karlsruhe.

TIMES

8 a.m. to 6 p.m. through September. Hours contract as the days get shorter, all the way to a 4 p.m. closing time in December.

COSTS

A day ticket costs 7.50 euros (\$10.28) for adults and 3.50 euros for kids under 15. Discounts for seniors and students are available. A family ticket for two adults and up to four children costs 18.50 euros.

FOOD

Nothing spectacular, but you won't have to wander far before encountering a cafe or other eatery. The train station adds to your options.

INFORMATION

The city of Karlsruhe has a quality website at karlsruhe.de; find zoo information on the menu under "Visit Karlsruhe" and "Leisure and Recreation."

— Gregory Broome



A camel regards the camera at Karlsruhe Zoo. The park includes about 150 species of animals from elephants to farm animals.



Boats carry visitors under a wooden bridge and along a stream.



A Eurasian eagle owl peers out from its enclosure.

WEEKEND: FOOD & DINING

Europe



PHOTOS BY JASON DUHR/Stars and Stripes

Above: A "diavola" pizza, topped with spicy salami and mozzarella, is accompanied by a "quattro formaggi" pizza topped with a light covering of tomato sauce, mozzarella, blue cheese, brie, an Italian soft cheese and oregano. The pizzas made for a filling lunch for two at Ristorante Pizzeria Doria in Orsago, Italy. At right: Seating is plentiful, and the restaurant's decor is light and modern.



Chocolatey cheesecake bars will feed a crowd

By SUSAN SELASKY
Detroit Free Press

Here's a recipe that easily doubles, if you need to feed multitudes. These Chocolate Cheesecake Bars require mainly pantry ingredients and are simple to put together. But remember that they need to chill at least four hours in the refrigerator; overnight is best.

If you double the recipe, use a large (10-by-15-inch) sided baking sheet and plan on about 10 to 15 minutes more baking time. Cool thoroughly before refrigerating.

CHEOLATE CHEESECAKE BARS

For crust
1 cup all-purpose flour
1/2 cup sugar
3 tablespoons baking cocoa
1 teaspoon baking powder
1/4 teaspoon salt
1/2 cup cold unsalted butter, cubed
1 egg yolk (reserve white for filling)
1 teaspoon vanilla extract
1/2 cup finely chopped walnuts or pecans
For filling
1 package (8 ounces) reduced-fat cream cheese, softened
1/2 cup sugar
1/2 cup reduced-fat sour cream
1 tablespoon all-purpose flour
2 teaspoons grated orange peel, optional
1/4 teaspoon salt
1 whole egg, lightly beaten
1 egg white, lightly beaten
1/2 teaspoon vanilla extract
Chocolate shavings, optional

Directions
Preheat the oven to 325 degrees. Line an 11-by-7-inch pan with foil, allowing foil to overhang on short sides of dish; grease the foil.
In a large bowl, combine flour, sugar, baking cocoa, baking powder and salt. Cut in butter until mixture resembles fine crumbs. Stir in egg yolk, vanilla and walnuts. Press onto bottom of prepared pan. Bake for 15 minutes.

In a small bowl, beat cream cheese and sugar until smooth. Beat in sour cream, flour, orange peel and salt. Beat in egg, egg white and vanilla on low speed just until combined. Pour filling over warm crust. Bake for 20 to 25 minutes or until center is almost set. Remove from oven and cool on a wire rack for 1 hour. Garnish with chocolate shavings if desired. Refrigerate overnight. To serve, lift out of pan and remove foil. Cut into 1-inch to 2-inch squares. (Makes about 25.)

After Hours: Italy

By JASON DUHR
Stars and Stripes

Not far from the well-traveled paths around Aviano Air Base is a restaurant offering a pleasant twist on lunches usually found at trattorias and osterias that seem to be around every corner.

Ristorante Pizzeria Doria sits less than 30 minutes' drive from the air base off Highway SS-13, nestled against the Doria factory in Orsago.

If you've ventured beyond the commissary and shopped at any local grocery stores, then you've surely seen Doria's products: salty snacks and sweet shortbread delights. The delicious smells from the factory hit you as soon as you step out of the car and into the parking lot. Your mouth will be watering by the time you enter the restaurant.

Working through a slight language barrier, I discovered that getting your food and enjoying it was a simple process.

With an ample number of seats to choose from, deciding where I wanted to sit was easier than deciding what I wanted to eat.

Doria offers 30 kinds of pizza, allowing you to enjoy tastes ranging from *diavola*, a spicy salami-and-tomato pizza covered in rich mozzarella cheese, to a *quattro formaggi* pizza, which has enough cheese on it to please any cheese lover.

Order pizza at the bar, but for all other food, just grab a tray and head for the self-serve area or choose from the grilled items listed in the Italian-only menus, which vary every day.

Various salads can be found on an island in the self-serve area, along with plates of sliced mozzarella on a bed of tomato slices and plates of thinly shaved prosciutto. Large bowls of salad cost 7 euros, and the smaller bowls are 3 euros. You'll find bowls of fruit and perfectly cut watermelon on the island, too.

Doria offers a combo deal that includes the first and second course with a side for 12.50 euros. The options change daily. While I was there, the choices included eggplant *parmigiana*, linguine with zucchini and shrimp, and pasta with tomato



You can order a pizza, get a drink or enjoy a quick sandwich at the bar inside Ristorante Pizzeria Doria.



Plates of thinly cut prosciutto accompany a plate of sliced mozzarella on a bed of tomato slices at the restaurant.



For food other than pizza, grab a tray and head for the self-serve area featuring salads and plates of sliced, fresh fruit.

sauce or meat sauce. The menu wasn't long, but there were enough selections to satisfy many different tastes. A liter of water is included in the

price of the combo. The prices ranged from 3 euros for baked zucchini to 8 euros for a cuttlefish salad if you choose to buy items separately.

RISTORANTE PIZZERIA DORIA

Location: Via Pontebbana 34 A, 31010 Orsago, Treviso.

Hours: Times for the bar, pizzeria, a la carte portion of the restaurant and the self-service section vary depending on the time of day and day of the week. See its website for exact times. Sometimes the restaurant is late in setting up, so it's best to show up about 30 minutes after opening time.

Prices: Pizzas range from 4.50 euros to 9.50 euros; sandwiches at the bar cost between 1.50 euros and 4.50 euros; menu items range from 3 euros to 10 euros if ordered separately.

Clientele: Mostly Italian.

Dress: Casual.

Menu: Italian only.

Parents, note: The restaurant has a small play area for kids — the only one I've seen in my time in Italy outside of fast-food chains. **More information:** Phone: (+39) 04316720269 0438-935929; website: ristorantepizzeriadoria.it/chi-siamo/orari (Italian only).

— Jason Duhr

Drink selections are numerous, from coffee, tea and water, to juice, soda and beer. Fill your tray with as much as you think you'll drink while you're there. If you return for seconds, you'll have to pay again.

After seeing all the food choices and eating my pizza, dessert didn't even cross my mind. But to make things a little easier, the restaurant shares the building with a small grocery shop, which stocks mainly sweets, some of them made by the Doria company. It's easy to grab a few treats on the go for when that sweet tooth comes into play after your food has settled.

duhr.jason@starsandstripes.com

WEEKEND: TRAVEL

Europe

Baltic beauties



PHOTOS BY STEVEN BEARDSLEY/Stars and Stripes

Above: Tallinn's harbor at dusk, with St. Olaf's Church visible in the distance. Once a flourishing trading port and member of the Hanseatic League, Tallinn is now a tourist draw for Europeans and some Americans. Right: Perhaps Riga's most iconic building, the House of the Blackheads, dates to the 14th century as a meeting space and merchants association headquarters.

Tallinn, Estonia, and Riga, Latvia, offer great views and budget-friendly prices

BY STEVEN BEARDSLEY
Stars and Stripes

Hands down the best elk meat I've eaten was in the small Baltic city of Tallinn, Estonia, at a restaurant where the butcher block tabletops and industrial lighting recalled eateries in London or Amsterdam.

But then, it was the only elk meat I've ever eaten.

Tallinn and the Baltic capitals north of Poland proudly embrace a European modernism while holding onto their cultural traditions. The rest of Europe is embracing them right back, with tourism cash flowing into shops and restaurants like the one that served the tasty elk meat, in Tallinn's medieval old town.

Many American visitors to Europe pull up well short of the Baltic states, going no farther than Krakow, Prague or Budapest. Yet the history and setting of cities like Tallinn and Riga, Latvia, and their tourist-friendly prices, offer ample reason for a visit, especially for U.S. service-members stationed in Europe.

Estonia is the farthest north of the three Baltic countries, and with only 1.2 million residents, the smallest. Its president, Toomas Hendrik Ilves, is a tweedy former professor from the U.S. (he renounced his citizenship to take office in Estonia). The country is also the most wired in Europe, with high connectivity rates and free Wi-Fi emanating from dozens of hot spots across Tallinn.

Tallinn's medieval old town is one of the most compact and complete in Europe. Stone turrets and green gothic spires rise above the surrounding buildings, and portions of the old city wall remain in place. Its origins begin with Danish conquest in the 13th century followed by a German order that fostered the city's merchant class and established the city as a trading power.

In its medieval glory days, Tallinn was part of the Hanseatic League, a confederation of trading ports along the Baltic Sea and northern Europe influential enough to raise its own army. Trade would later fall and the city would be caught between warring neighbors like Sweden and Russia. Russian influence would last through the 20th century, when Estonia was absorbed by the Soviet Union.

Tallinn's town hall is a testament to its medieval success. Finished in the 14th century, when regional trade was at its height, the building once hosted the town council that dictated administration of the city and its trade. Today, visitors can pay 3 euros to climb the narrow bell tower and get a good overlook of the city.

A few minutes' walk from the square is the Alexander Nevsky Cathedral, an Eastern Orthodox church completed in 1900. Its ornate, flawless exterior gives way to a rich, incense-filled interior easy with worship. Women place candles in silver holders before the icons and touch their foreheads to the religious paintings.

Priests intone the liturgy. The golden wall of icons shimmers.

Across from the cathedral is Toompea Castle, former home of the German order that oversaw Tallinn and now the parliament.

Just up the hill is St. Mary's Cathedral and the best overlook of the old town, the Kohtuotsa platform, just off Toom-Rüüti.

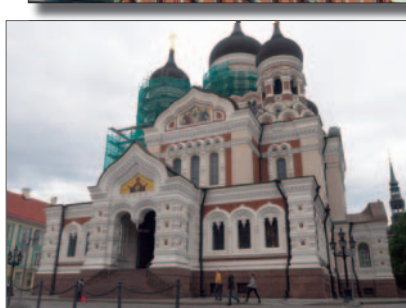
On the way down, consider stopping in one of the old town's artisan shops to buy a wooden spoon, carved from juniper or black ash from Estonia's forests, or a woolen hat, made from its sheep. Just off the town hall square, the Adamson-Eric museum offers a good look at modern Estonian art.

For evening drinks, the pub Hell Hunt is among the most popular in the city. A lively, talky atmosphere found on Pikk Street just north of the main square, it offers a good range of beers and no-pretensions setting.

Riga's old town is much bigger than Tallinn's, and while it lacks its intimacy and medieval character, it is notably greener and just as walkable. It also offers more to choose from in restaurants and shops.

Once a flourishing port for the Hanseatic League, Riga was later absorbed by a Polish kingdom on the rise in the 16th century before being dominated by Sweden and finally Russia. Like Tallinn, it still claims a sizable Russian-speaking population.

For a good tour of the downtown, start at the Freedom Monument on the main road,



Finished in 1900, the wonderfully ornate Alexander Nevsky Cathedral on Toompea Hill in Tallinn, Estonia, is a reminder of the late Russian influence on Estonian history.

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CONTINUED ON PAGE 31

WEEKEND: TRAVEL

FROM PAGE 30

Brīvības Bulvaris. Completed in 1935, the tall stone column commemorates the Latvian War of Independence but took on new significance after the country was annexed by the Soviet Union in 1940. At a time when many other nationalistic monuments were dismantled by the Soviets, the Latvian monument was preserved, and it became a rallying point in the late 1980s as the giant empire flagged.

Just west of the monument is the beautiful park Bastion Hill, which follows a small river some times drifting by manpowered rafts. Walking paths crisscross the leafy area, and a tree-shaded observation platform at the bottom of the hill offers a good point to enjoy the moment.

The old town unfolds at the bottom of the hill. Its highlights include the old military barracks and the nearby war museum; the Three Brothers—side-by-side homes that are the oldest still standing in the city—dating from the 15th century; and the massive Riga Cathedral, whose cornerstone was placed on the ground 800 years ago.

Perhaps the most iconic building in Riga is the House of Blackheads, a re-creation of a 14th-century meeting space and merchants association headquarters. Constructed of bright red bricks and ornamented with stately, gothic columns and brass weather vanes, the current version was built in 1999 after the original was destroyed during World War II. Written on its exterior is a demand of future residents: "Should I ever come must to dust, rebuild my walls you must."



NOCA Am-raw/Stars and Stripes

Nearby is the Museum of the Occupation, which details the 51-year Soviet occupation of the country, which began before World War II. Latvia's conflicted feelings toward that era are visible in the Soviet-era Latvian Riflemen Monument near the museum, dedicated to a formation that fought with the Bolsheviks in the Russian Civil War. While it's a symbol of pride to some, many others believe it should be removed.

Finally, while navigating the city's historic buildings, keep your eyes to the tops of towers and church spires. Riga's old town churches are topped with golden roosters, a tradition meant to ward off evil. Meanwhile, a small statue of a cat perched on the turret window of a house at 10 Meistaru iela in the old town is another city icon.

While Tallinn and Riga are only two small parts of a much larger, richer region, they are proper introductions to an area often overlooked by American tourists in Europe.

beardsley.steven@stripes.com
Twitter: @jsbeardsley

KNOW & GO

- **Getting there:** Major airlines, including Lufthansa, Turkish Airlines and Finnair, fly into Riga, Latvia, and Tallinn, Estonia. Discount airlines such as Ryanair also fly into both airports.
- **Accommodations:** Both cities have an assortment of low-cost and higher-end accommodations.
- **Food:** In Tallinn, try Ratsa-

kaevu 16, named for its address. The wait staff is friendly, the prices very good and the food excellent and fresh. The roast elk was terrific, served with sautéed carrots, berries and thyme sprigs. In Riga, check out Province, on Kalku iela. It had a pretty good cabbage soup, with pork, carrot and dill and served with a spoonful of sour cream.

- **More information:** Tallinn's website tourism.tallinn.ee/eng, has tips on cultural events and offers an interactive map of the city's neighborhoods. A Riga website, livieriga.com/en, gives visitors suggestions for dining out, what souvenirs to buy and currently features "10 Reasons to Visit Riga."

— Steven Beardsley

Hotel Directory

GERMANY

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Restaurant Directory

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<h4>PALLAS</h4> <p>GREEK SPECIALITIES Pallas Greek Specialities Untermer Markt 15 92637 Weiden Tel/Fax: +49 (0)961-431 62</p>	<h4>China Restaurant</h4> <p>China City Mongolian Grill-Barbecue All you can eat Straßburger Allee 8 * KL 0631 303 7638 • Free parking</p>	<h4>Okinii</h4> <p>Taunus Strasse 22 65183 Wiesbaden Tel. 0611-23835808</p>
<h4>KB's Country & Western Saloon</h4> <p>Berge, 4. 9229 Vilseck 09662-7014481 Open Fri 19:00-03:00 Sat 18:00-03:00</p>	<h4>Minges</h4> <p>The Only Indoor and Outdoor Mexican Sports bar in Ktwn. Am Warmfreibad 3 • 67657 Kaiserslautern Daily Drink & Menu Specials!</p>	<h4>Villa im Tal</h4> <p>Fine Dining - Events - Catering Admstraße 4 65195 Wiesbaden Tel. 0611-2386228 www.villaimtal.de</p>
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<h4>Kaiserslautern area</h4> <p>Holzofen Pizzeria Am Seewog Waldrst. 40, 66877, Ramstein-Miesenbach Tel: 063719522955 Fax: 063719522944 www.seewogpizzeria.de</p>	<h4>ENCHILADA - PURO MEXICO!</h4> <p>Enchilada - Restaurant Bay Mexicano Schützenhofstr. 3, 65183 Wiesbaden Tel: 0611-450483-0 wiesbaden@enchilada.com www.enchilada.de</p>	<h4>Café Temptation</h4> <p>reservations recommended Walter-Hallstein Strasse 5-7 65197 Wiesbaden (5 minutes from the Hainberg/OPX area) Tel. 0611-6091230 Email: info@cafe-temptation.de www.cafe-temptation.de</p>
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WEEKEND

Pacific

THE PACIFIC EXPERIENCE



DO THIS:
Harajuku-Omotesando
Genki Matsuri Super
Yosakoi 2014

Courtesy of Harajuku-Omotesando Genki Matsuri Super Yosakoi Jimukyoku

This event in Tokyo is Aug. 23 and 24. More than 90 groups of dancers parade to the beat of noisemakers while wearing colorful costumes 12:15-4:45 p.m. on Omotesando Avenue on Sunday. For more: www.yosakoi-harajuku.com/eng.

UPCOMING CONCERT
Daughtry, fronted by "American Idol" contestant Chris Daughtry, below, will be in concert in Tokyo on Oct. 28 at O-East.



MATT SAYLES/AP

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31																				

■ Available ■ Not Available

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AUGUST 23, SATURDAY DOORS OPEN 6:30 PM
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Available **Aug. 29** inside

STARS AND STRIPES newspaper (Pacific theater only)

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WEEKEND: TRAVEL

Pacific

ON BASE

Events are as accurate as possible at press time. Since times or event schedules can change, please verify events before attending.

Japan

ATSUGI

Athletics: Sept. 6, 2014 Sprint Style Triathlon, 500-meter swim/17 km cycle/5K run, register at Ranger Gym, sign up by Sept. 2.

ITT Tours: Aug. 23, 4 a.m.-10 p.m., Mount Fuji climb, 11 a.m.-10 p.m., Asakusa Samba Festival; 7 a.m.-6 p.m., Tokyo Summerland; Aug. 24, 8:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m., Zip Line at Forest Adventure;

8:30 a.m.-5:30 p.m., Sankeien Garden, China Town & Yokohama boat cruise; Aug. 30, 5 a.m.-10 p.m., Nagashima Amusement Park; 8 a.m.-5 p.m., Fuji Safari Park; Aug. 31, 4 a.m.-10 p.m., Mount Fuji climb; 9 a.m.-6 p.m., Asahi Beer, Saijo Temple & Odawara Castle; Sept. 1, 7 a.m.-7 p.m., transportation only to Fuji-Q Highland.

CAMP FUJI
MCCS Trips and Recreation: Tue. & Sat., Mount Fuji day climb.

YOKOSUKA
Tours: Aug. 23, Mount Fuji summer sightseeing; Asakusa Samba Carnival; Aug. 24, Mount Fuji family hiking; New Sanno Hotel brunch & Super Yosokai Festival; Aug. 26, Fuji Yoshida Fire Festival; Aug. 30, Hakone highlights with buffet; Mother Farm & Tokyo Bay ferry; Aug. 31, Nikko Ninja Theme Park; Yunesun Hot Spa with buffet; Sept. 1, Disneyland with holiday dinner; Fuji Safari Park. **Outdoor Recreation Center:** Aug. 23, 1:45 a.m.-10 p.m., Mount Fuji

hikes; Aug. 23, 4:45 a.m.-5:30 p.m., Kataoka beginner's surfing class; Aug. 24, 2:45, 4:45 a.m., Mount Fuji overnight hike.

CAMP ZAMA
Outdoor Recreation Center and Leisure Travel Service: Aug. 23, 4 a.m.-9 p.m., Mount Fuji climbing; 5 a.m.-7 p.m., Shirahama White Beach; Aug. 24, 7:30 a.m.-6:30 p.m., grape picking & BBQ; Aug. 26, 11:30 a.m.-11 p.m., Fuji Fire Festival; Sept. 1, 8:30 a.m.-6:30 p.m., Hotel Mikazuki Ryugu Spa & lunch buffet.

Guam

ANDERSEN AIR FORCE BASE

Hotspot: Aug. 22, 6 p.m., "Insidious," PG, Base Theater; Aug. 23, 7:30 p.m., "Smurfs 2," PG, Arc Light Park; Aug. 30, 6 p.m., "47 Ronin," PG-13, Base Theater; Aug. 29, 2-5 p.m., Labor Day Bash, field across the AAFES Shoppette and Chapel 1. **Outdoor Recreation:** Aug. 23, 7:45 a.m., WWII tour; Aug. 30, 7:15 a.m., windsurfing lessons.

Okinawa

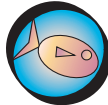
CAMPS FOSTER, COURTNEY & KINSER
Tours: Aug. 22, 10 a.m.-4 p.m., Japanese tea ceremony; Aug. 23, 9 a.m.-3 p.m., Marriott Pool & lunch; 9:30 a.m.-5 p.m., Pizza in the Sky & Nakijin Castle Ruins; Aug. 24, 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Northern Highlights; 9 a.m.-5 p.m., battle sites tour; Aug. 29, 5:30 a.m.-9:30 p.m., Urashima Dinner Theater; Aug. 30, 8 a.m.-5 p.m., Kerama snorkeling; 9 a.m.-5 p.m., Expo Park & Aquarium.

KADENA

ITT: Aug. 23, 5 a.m.-6 p.m., deep sea fishing; 9 a.m.-1:30 p.m., Forest Adventure; Aug. 24, 8 a.m.-4 p.m., Komaka Island; 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m., battles of Okinawa; Aug. 25, 9 a.m.-3:30 p.m., Yui Monorail & Kokusai Street; Aug. 28-Sept. 1, weekend in Tokyo; Aug. 29,

5 a.m.-6 p.m., deep sea fishing; 7:30 a.m.-7:30 p.m., Zamami Island Beach Day; Aug. 30-31, Tokashiki Marine village on Tokashiki Island; Aug. 30-Sept. 1, YYY Club Resort on le Island. **Outdoor Recreation:** Aug. 23, 12:45-4 p.m., snorkeling with whale sharks; Aug. 24, 9:15 a.m.-3 p.m., cave exploration; Aug. 31-Sept. 1, Nagannu Island overnight; Sept. 1, 6:30-8:30 p.m., sunbse.

To see your events here: SPFEDLibrary@stripes.com.



Stars and Stripes

See Tokyo SkyTree and take a ride along the Sumida River on Sept. 1 with Yokosuka Tours.

Packpoint, an app that makes your packing list

If you consider creating a packing list a chore, you might consider this app a friend.

Name: Packpoint
Available: iOS, Android
Cost: Free

What it does: Constructs an easy-to-use packing list whether you're traveling for business or leisure, taking just the basics, bringing a baby or planning to do laundry.

What's hot: The lists made with Packpoint were smart and quick to create. I was able to choose items based on activities on my itinerary and add original items that I wanted to include. After you create a list to your liking, you can save it and use it again for another trip. Do you make packing lists for others? You can share them by email, text message, Twitter and Facebook. It also lets you know what the weather will be like at your destination, saving you time and the extra step of searching a separate app or web site.

What's not: I would like to print my list wirelessly to a local printer. I don't think I've seen that feature on other apps. I emailed my list to myself to get a printable copy.

—Jen Leo/Los Angeles Times



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WEEKEND: TRAVEL

Pacific

Tokyo's hipster paradise

Shimokitazawa boasts low prices, bohemian charm and an artsy vibe

KNOW & GO

About Shimokitazawa

Shimokitazawa, commonly called "Shimokitazawa," is on the western side of Tokyo, and although just a small town, it is very popular among young people. According to the Japan National Tourism Organization, "In questionnaire surveys about where young people want to live, Shimokitazawa is always one of the top three responses."

It attributes this to the number of theaters, live music venues, bars, vintage record and clothing stores and coffee shops. Many of its narrow alleys are inaccessible to vehicles, making it perfect for exploring on foot.

Shimokitazawa is also a colorful place, with murals and art painted on the closed gates of shops.

Getting there

Shimokitazawa Station is served by two train lines from central Tokyo, the Keio Inokashira line from Shibuya Station and the Odakyu line from Shinjuku Station.

Staying there

Airbnb.com has studio and one-bedroom apartments from about \$100 a night.

The B Sengenya Hotel in nearby Setagaya has singles from about \$80 and doubles from about \$100.

Festival fun

For winter fun, time your visit during the Tengu-matsuri Festival, held at the end of January or beginning of February, which includes a parade of people dressed as the specter of the mythical Tengu, with its long nose and red face. The lively Mikoshi-Matsuri Festival (portable shrine festival), held in early September, is another local event that is recommended by the Japan National Tourism Organization (jnto.go.jp/eng).

By JULIE WAN
Special to The Washington Post

I first learned of Shimokitazawa, a suburb west of Tokyo, on a vacation rental site: "Imagine a neighborhood run by hippies," says the listing.

It went on to tout alleyways lined with vintage clothing stores, bars, small theaters and live-music venues, all emitting a bohemian vibe.

Just as intriguing to me, though, is the area's affordability, especially after days spent looking at one expensive, claustrophobic Tokyo hotel room after another. By the time a Japanese friend told me that she used to live in Shimokitazawa, as residents affectionately call it, I already had an apartment booked there.

Shimokitazawa is only a few steps from Shibuya, the iconic heart of bustling Tokyo made famous in the movie "Lost in Translation." But it's surprising how quickly the frenetic atmosphere fades as my husband and I, with our toddler son in tow, board a clackety train to Tokyo's western edges. Just three stops later, the world seems to have shrunk significantly.

As we left the station, it was as though we'd come upon one of the miniature-train-set worlds that my son and I construct on our living room floor, complete with toy-box-size houses, cozy coffee shops and overflowing thrift stores packed in a row. A tangle of narrow lanes crisscrosses up and down the hills. The few roads that allow traffic are wide enough only for a single car.

"This is where intellectuals coexist with high society and hippies," Wakana, our landlady, tells us when we meet her the next day.

Wakana was born and raised



PHOTOS BY JULIE WAN/For the Washington Post

Shimokitazawa, Japan, a neighborhood on the western edge of Tokyo, has been home to free spirits since the days of student protests against the Vietnam War in 1969.

in Shimokitazawa in the 1970s and exudes the town's personality — simultaneously laid-back and sophisticated. She sported a stylish bob, and was wear-

ing a sleeveless shift dress that appeared both effortless and chic, with pieces of white cloth patched together and stitches and frayed ends showing. "My mom thought my dress was inside out this morning," she told us, laughing.

Wakana invited us to the Mikoshi-Matsuri Festival, Shimokitazawa's annual temple celebration.

We sat in her living room with snacks before heading out, and within minutes, my son had adopted Wakana's mom and aunt as his Japanese grandmas, the three conversing perfectly in a combination of toddler babble and Japanese.

"Sometimes old people don't want young artists invading their space," Wakana explained when I asked what makes Shimokitazawa unique. "Here, there's old people and young people living in harmony. And it didn't just happen

yesterday; it goes 50 to 80 years back."

Shimokitazawa has boasted writers for decades, and following student protests against the Vietnam War in 1969, it became a haven for even more artists, musicians and other free spirits. Then the Honda Gekijo theater was built in 1982, and Shimokitazawa established itself as the focal point of underground theater and live music. While the rest of Tokyo was overrun with skyscrapers, Shimokitazawa enforced building-height restrictions and preserved historic sites.

"When the Americans..." Wakana started, then turns to us with an apologetic chuckle, "sorry — when the Americans, uh, dropped the bombs..." We laughed at her politeness as we realized why she'd paused.

CONTINUED ON PAGE 35



Locals celebrate the Mikoshi-Matsuri Festival in Shimokitazawa.

WEEKEND: TRAVEL

Pacific

FROM PAGE 34

"They missed this area," she continued, "so the trees, et cetera, are still here. In the east area, there was a lot of damage, so there are new buildings there now, but we have stuff here from before World War II."

More recently, though, Shimokita has been under a different kind of threat. Since 2003, the city has been slowly implementing a redevelopment plan that involves, first, moving one of Shimokita's train lines below ground, and second, constructing in its place an 85-foot-wide expressway through the town center. The first part of this plan is already in place, but the second part is still the subject of great dispute.

Proponents of these changes have their eye on economic growth. Those opposing construction of the highway, however, argue that it would rob Shimokita of its charm. One community group proposes that the now-empty land be turned into a park instead, in the spirit of Manhattan's High Line, where old railroad tracks have been converted into an elevated green space. But nothing's been determined yet.

As we strolled toward the temple festival at dusk, with neighborhood children dashing about us in the lanes, it wasn't hard to see why this atmosphere would be worth preserving. Shimokita somehow comes across as vibrant yet relaxed, countercultural but still traditional.

At the festival, Wakana handed us coins to toss into a well. Afterward, she received a blessing written on a wooden stick that she would swap out with the one from last year in her living room.

During our four-day stay, we found ourselves making it to only a few of Tokyo's must-see spots, often lingering in Shimokita instead. One morning, we meandered over to Bear Pond Espresso, a tiny Shimokita coffee shop with an international cult following, to order a special called the "Dirty" — a shot of espresso topped with cold milk topped with a second shot of espresso.

On our last evening, we decided to try a local *izakaya* that Wakana recommended, called Uoshin.

We arrived to find a Japanese-language-only wait staff and no English menu, which certainly signifies a good meal, as it turned out to be.

Afterward, we wandered through nearby thrift shops, where we unearthed several *maekake* — vintage indigo-dyed Japanese aprons — to bring back as souvenirs.

"I like introducing my mom to my guests," Wakana told us at some point that weekend. "She can't imagine why anyone would want to come to Tokyo and see Shimokita."

Thanks to Wakana, we're happy to have done just that.

Eating their noodles

Japanese entrepreneurs introduce specialty ramen overseas

The Yomiuri Shimbun

Forty years after it was first served, *ieikei* ramen is poised to take on the world. The distinctive broth consisting of a blend of tonkotsu pork bone soup and soy sauce nestling thick, straight noodles was created at the Yoshimuraya ramen shop, which opened in Yokohama in 1974.

Its popularity sparked the emergence of similar ramen shops across Japan, including those run by longtime employees of Yoshimuraya who were allowed to set up a branch of their own. They all add "ya" (which means house) to the end of the shops' names in a nod to Yoshimuraya. The *ieikei* hybrid has since become a genre that sits comfortably alongside other giants of local specialty ramen, such as Hakata's *tonkotsu* and Sapporo's miso ramen. *Ieikei* means house-style.

And now, *ieikei* ramen is set to change the way many non-Japanese view the dish. Hong Kong's Causeway Bay district is packed with luxury boutiques, stores

and expensive foreign automobile dealerships. On Dec. 13

last year, a new *ieikei* ramen shop opened in a corner of this bustling, economically vibrant district. Stories about the first overseas outlet of the Matsuchiya ramen chain were splashed across Hong Kong's news-papers and magazines when it opened.

"A new genre of ramen from Yokohama, Japan, has touched down in Hong Kong for the first time," one report said.

On its first day, about 600 bowls of ramen were served in just eight hours. In less time than it takes to slurp a noodle, Matsuchiya became a popular attraction.

Matsuchiya's first shop opened in Fukuoka. It was founded by Katsunari Matsuno, president of MG Holdings Co., which operates about 60 eating establishments.

"Many people know about *tonkotsu* ramen, but I believe *ieikei* ramen is just as delicious," said Matsuno, 40. "I felt there was an opening to be successful overseas with this ramen."

Matsuchiya's five shops in Japan include ones in Fukuoka and Chigasaki. Excited by the



The Yomiuri Shimbun photos

Yoshimuraya founder, Minoru Yoshimura; the Yoshimuraya ramen shop opened in Yokohama in 1974. Its popularity sparked the emergence of similar ramen shops across Japan.



Noodles are lined up in a box to wait for shipment from the Sakai Seimen factory in Tokyo.

growing ramen boom abroad, Matsuno decided to open a shop in Hong Kong.

Many *tonkotsu* ramen shops have popped up overseas in recent years, led by the Fukuoka-based Ippudo and Ichiran chains.

Although these stores have contributed significantly to the development of Japanese ramen brands, people in many areas now tend to assume *tonkotsu* is the only ramen flavor. *Tonkotsu* ramen is characterized by a

creamy soup and thin noodles, whereas *ieikei* ramen features a broth made from pork bones, chicken stock and soy sauce, uses fatter, chewy noodles, and is usually topped with boiled spinach, *nori* and *chashu* roasted pork. There are estimated to be about 1,000 *ieikei* ramen establishments, mainly in Japan and other parts of Asia.

The flavors and noodles can vary between *ieikei* shops, but Matsuno felt that delivering a

quality product would be the best recipe for success.

"If we make it carefully, it will definitely sell," he thought. He dispatched rising ramen chef Daigo Sato to head the Hong Kong shop.

Noodles, pork bones and other important ingredients are shipped directly from Yokohama to Hong Kong, where the chefs prepare ramen that tastes identical to the dishes served in Japan. Although Hong Kong locals quickly gave the flavor a thumbs-up, Matsuchiya had to tweak some elements to accommodate local preferences. Customers there were more accustomed to skinnier noodles, so Matsuchiya adjusted the width. Others complained when the air conditioning was not set to a temperature cold enough to make people put their jackets on, while others wanted carbonated beverages with their meals because they would not drink chilled water.

"There are new surprises every day," said Sato, 31. "I want to listen to what our customers say and keep refining our ramen."

Matsuno threw himself into the ramen industry about 20 years ago and now he has lofty ambitions for the humble dish.

"*Ieikei* ramen means everything to me. I want to make it more popular overseas, so that people will say, 'This is Japanese ramen,'" he said.

WEEKEND: MUSIC

Spoon digs back in after hiatus with latest, 'They Want My Soul'

By MIKAEL WOOD
Los Angeles Times

After more than 20 years of activity, Britt Daniel and his band Spoon have cultivated such a reputation for consistency that it's tempting to overstate any shift in the group's carefully managed ecosystem. Yet Spoon's new album reflects moves that seem truly significant for the band, which formed in Austin, Texas, in 1993 and went on to make seven increasingly acclaimed records before going on a brief hiatus following 2010's "Transference."

Released on Aug. 5, "They Want My Soul" is the group's first album since Daniel moved to Los Angeles in 2011. It features a new member, keyboardist and guitarist Alex Fischel, and two high-profile producers the band hadn't used before.

And after a decade-plus run on the proudly independent Merge Records, "They Want My Soul" marks Spoon's fresh relationship with Loma Vista Recordings, an L.A.-based company with ties to the major-label system that Daniel once abhorred.

"We took a break, and when you come back from a break, you have a lot of new ideas," the singer said recently. "This just felt like a time to make a change."

The jolt paid off. With its juicy melodies, enigmatic lyrics and imaginative arrangements, "They Want My Soul" is Spoon's strongest album yet, something rarely (if ever) said about a band's eighth record. The basic approach sticks to the template Daniel and drummer Jim Eno devised more than 20 years ago: slashing guitar licks and Daniel's parched singing over taunt grooves that suggest a kind of post-punk R&B.

But the songs keep flashing new colors, as in the synth-dup "New York Kids" and "Inside Out," which shimmers with the delicate plucking of what appears to be a harp. Throughout the record, the band sounds more urgent and propulsive than it has in years — at least until Eno slows the beat for "Knock Knock Knock," which Daniel referred to as the band's homage to Dr. Dre.

"I wanted this to be a visceral record," he said, curling in a corner seat at a wine bar near his home in Los Feliz, Calif. Dressed in his usual crisp button-down shirt, Daniel, 43, was headed out of town the next morning to begin a tour. "The idea was 'inventive' but not too brainy." "Transference" he added, might've been a bit too brainy, with woozy, densely textured songs that didn't play especially well onstage. But things were happening for Spoon — bigger crowds, more robust record sales, licensing demand for its music to be used in movies and



TV shows — so the group stayed on the road "maybe longer than" that record wanted to be toured. "We were signed up for at least 11 months, and we had to live that out," Daniel said.

By the end, relationships in the band (which also includes bassist Rob Pope and guitarist Eric Harvey) had frayed. A break sounded like a good idea.

Daniel knew too that he wanted new surroundings; he chose L.A. over New York because here he could more easily "make noise in my house." In 2012 he formed another project, Divine Fits, with Dan Boeckner of the indie-rock band Wolf Parade; eventually they made an album and toured together.

Yet Daniel never doubted that he'd return to Spoon, which he did last year accompanied by Fischel, who'd performed live with Divine Fits. Daniel played keyboards on earlier Spoon records, but "there's certain things he can do that I can't do," the singer said, such as play solos

that don't just sound like showing off.

"Alex's soloing is really moving," Daniel said. "There's no Clapton to it, you know what I mean?"

In search of additional energy, the band enlisted Joe Chiccarelli and Dave Fridmann, producers known for their collaborations with acts including the White Stripes and the Flaming Lips, to oversee separate studio sessions in L.A. and upstate New York. Both encouraged Spoon to broaden a sonic palette that's often been described as minimalist, even if Daniel said he'd never use that term himself.

"I mean, I get it," he said. "We started hearing that (in 2002) with 'Kill the Moonlight,' and that album opens with a song called 'Small Stakes,' which is just a Wurliizer (organ), a tambourine through reverb and a vocal through reverb."

With the album completed, Daniel felt determined to press his latest effort in a fresh way.

Spoon's partnership with Merge, he acknowledged, was working. "Transference" entered the Billboard chart at No. 4, a huge accomplishment for an indie label.

"But maybe it wasn't working well enough," Daniel added. Loma Vista promised the possibility of something more — without the show-biz phoniness that once inspired Daniel to write two songs about an Elektra Records executive whom he felt had neglected the band.

Headed by Tom Whalley, a music-industry veteran who tried to sign Spoon to Interscope in 1995, the label bills itself as a boutique shop with the reach and wherewithal of a major. (It's distributed by Universal Music Group, the world's largest record company.)

"I'm someone who can help Britt maintain his strength of independence while providing opportunities to expand his audience," said Whalley.

He and Daniel were vague re-

Spoon

They Want My Soul
(Loma Vista)

After establishing a standard of excellence with five albums since the turn of the millennium, the Austin, Texas, rock band Spoon took a break after 2010's slightly less than excellent "Transference." Singer Britt Daniel paired off with Dan Boeckner of Wolf Parade to form the synthsonal side project Divine Fits, while drummer/producer Jim Eno got busy knob-twiddling for bands such as Telekinetics and !!!.

The brief hiatus served the band well. Collaborating with a pair of producers — Joe Chiccarelli, who's worked with everyone from Tori Amos to Frank Zappa; and Dave Fridmann, who's closely associated with the Flaming Lips — Spoon does tweak its sound slightly, playing around with electro-pop experimentalism on "Outlier," for instance.

But mostly, "They Want My Soul" is sharp, smart, and concise, exactly what you would hope — and expect — a Spoon album to be. That goes for the meaty hooks that get things going with appropriate swagger on "Rent I Pay," and the grabby melody and jagged guitar breaks on the title cut, in which Daniel rails against anyone who might steal his mojo. The special treat is "I Just Don't Understand," a 1961 Ann-Margret hit sung by principal Daniel influence John Lennon when the Beatles covered it on their BBC radio sessions. Here, it just sounds like another really good Spoon song.

— Dan DeLuca
The Philadelphia Inquirer

garding the specifics of how that might happen, though the singer pointed to several recent music videos, each of which gained considerable traction online — as a sign that he's being more thoughtful about promotion.

Like most artists, Daniel claimed to be less concerned with the commercial than with the creative. But he didn't deny that's why we're good. We spend the time to do it right."

With its juicy melodies, enigmatic lyrics and imaginative arrangements, 'They Want My Soul' is Spoon's strongest album yet.

WEEKEND: MUSIC

TWANG HEARD 'ROUND THE WORLD

Country goes global as international fans find appeal in music's core values, more mainstream sounds

By RANDY LEWIS
Los Angeles Times

Country musician Brad Paisley's first tour of the United Kingdom in 2000 didn't leave him much to write home to West Virginia about.

Paisley and the other acts on the tour flew commercial airlines and saw their precious band gear stashed into the jet's regular luggage holds. The hotels were spartan, the venues were small and they were lucky if the promoters would give them a soundcheck before taking the stage.

"I remember thinking, 'What am I doing?'" Paisley said. "Knowing who I am in America, what am I doing here?"

These days, Paisley is finding a warmer reception overseas. He first noticed the thaw in 2010 when he booked a show in London.

"I was told, 'You'll be playing a small venue and it probably won't sell out,'" Paisley said. But tickets went so fast, a second show was added and sold out. When Paisley returned to London in 2011, he was booked at the O2 arena. "I said, 'Are you kidding me?' They sold 10,000 tickets. That's a good night in America. It feels like the tip of the iceberg."

For decades, country acts rarely toured abroad, with exceptions for superstars such as Johnny Cash. Now, it's one of America's hottest musical exports.

Love of family and country — core American values — are part of the appeal for a growing number of global fans. No other form of pop music more consistently expresses the virtues of hard work, self-reliance, honesty, equality and, often, a maverick attitude toward the status quo.

One measure of the shift: of the 100 highest-grossing tours of 2011 worldwide, according to the concert-tracking service Pollstar, 11 were country acts. Two years later, 15 broke that threshold, selling more than 300,000 tickets outside the U.S. last year.

Some of the credit goes to bands working harder to build audiences through social media, and the ability to reach audience directly through YouTube and similar services.

Another factor: Country music these days is a little less country, and a little more pop. Crossover superstars such as Taylor Swift helped make traditional country instruments such as steel guitars and banjos more accessible to foreign audiences.

"It's a phenomenon that probably started half a dozen years ago when Taylor Swift emerged as a major international artist," said Bob Shennan, director of music for three BBC Radio stations. "She came to the U.K. being

very much a country artist, then came back and came back and grew a real fan base and now has morphed into the biggest pop act on the planet at the moment."

Younger acts with a knack for marketing on social media are among the most active, and most successful, in reaching world audiences. Swift mastered that skill early and her template is being emulated and expanded on by a growing number of young peers, including Kacey Musgraves, the Band Perry, Chris Young and Brantley Gilbert.

"The Internet has been a huge help," said Scott Borchetta, head of Swift's label, Big Machine Records. "Whether it was the first time we took the Band Perry over or the first time we took Taylor, there was already an awareness by a small group of super fans. That never would have happened pre-Internet."

Then there are high-profile country music events such as the new Country To Country (C2C) Festivals that promoter AEG staged with the Nashville-based

Country Music Association for the past two years in London, adding Dublin to the mix this year. Over the course of two days in March, the 2014 C2C London shows drew nearly 30,000 fans.

When Garth Brooks announced plans to resume touring after a 13-year hiatus, he could have chosen any city in America to make his splashy re-entry. He chose Dublin, and promptly sold 400,000 tickets for five concerts — in a nation with a total population of just over 4 million.

When city officials limited him to three shows, he canceled all of them and left politicians accusing each other of denying Irish fans the chance to see the singer that one Belfast newspaper compared to Elvis.

Country allows audiences as far away as China to connect with a slice of life distinctly different from their own.

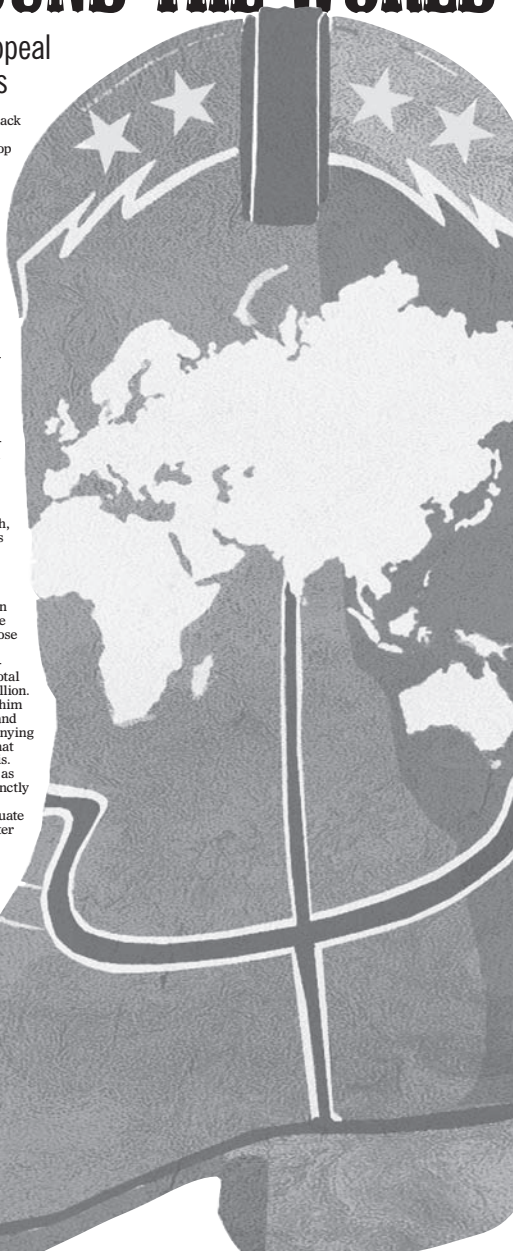
Ong Zihan, a 23-year-old college graduate in Beijing, began listening to country after watching singer Blake Shelton on "The Voice."

In addition to the music, she's drawn to the songs' messages that "come from a specific cultural background — it's almost exclusively American," she said.

"Pop music sometimes can be brainwashing," she continued. "As I grow more mature, I tend to prefer country music, which I can listen to over and over."

'Pop music sometimes can be brainwashing. As I grow more mature, I tend to prefer country music, which I can listen to over and over.'

Ong Zihan
Chinese country music fan



WEEKEND: BOOKS

‘Graveyard’ gloriously graphic

Gaiman book’s adaptation a heavenly pairing of writer, artist

By Andrew A. Smith

McClatchy-Tribune News Service

Fans of “Coraline,” “Murder Mysteries” and “Dream Hunters” already know how good a writer Neil Gaiman is. Those familiar with the graphic novel versions also how good an artist P. Craig Russell is.

That successful collaboration continues with “The Graveyard Book,” Gaiman’s New York Times best-selling and Newbery Medal-winning novel, which Russell is adapting to comics. “The Graveyard Book Volume 1” (of 2) arrived this month from HarperCollins (\$19.99), and it’s just as good as its pedigree would suggest.

“Graveyard Book” is the story of Nobody Owens, a child adopted by the inhabitants of a graveyard — and per-



mysterious Indigo Man and the dangerous Sleer. Silas and the spirits raise and educate Bod, as he’s called, and as long as

he remains in the graveyard he is largely protected, and able to go unseen. That’s important, because the Man Jack — who is working for evil parties unknown, with an agenda that requires Bod’s death — hasn’t given up his search. Even in the graveyard, Bod isn’t completely safe, as he finds when he is snatched through the gateway to the City of Ghouls.

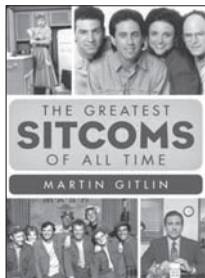
Creepy enough for you? And yet, a story that begins with multiple murders and takes place almost entirely in a haunted graveyard is also a charming coming-of-age tale. It is one of Gaiman’s gifts that he can pull off this seamless blend of whimsy and the macabre.

Still, a graphic novel depends greatly on art, so it’s fortunate “Graveyard Book” is graced by the presence of Russell. His lyrical, sensuous work is also a seamless

mixture of styles, showing influences ranging from Renaissance painting to Burne Hogarth’s “Tarzan” comic strip.

Russell doesn’t do all the art — it would have taken him “four or five years,” he told Publishers Weekly — but he did do the layouts throughout. Then he selected artists that meshed with his own style to do a chapter each, which for the first book includes Stephen B. Scott, Scott Hampton, Tony Harris, Kevin Nowlan, Galen Showman and Jill Thompson. The result is surprisingly smooth.

The only complaint one can imagine with “The Graveyard Book Volume 1” is that it contains only the first five chapters and an interlude. That leaves the reader hanging breathlessly until “Volume 2” arrives in late November. Which wouldn’t matter all that much, if it weren’t so good.



The Greatest Sitcoms of All Time

Martin Gitlin

It’s one thing to argue whether “Seinfeld” is the greatest sitcom ever, as Gitlin claims. You might even want to battle over his top five, which includes “All in the Family,” “M*A*S*H,” “I Love Lucy” and “The Mary Tyler Moore Show.”

But how do you argue whether “The Flintstones” is the 70th-best?

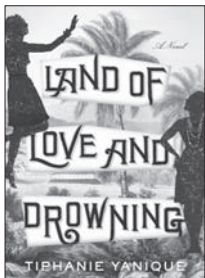
In the book “The Greatest Sitcoms of All Time,” Gitlin does indeed list the top 70 along with descriptions, bits of dialogue, awards won and other information on the top shows. He gives some also-rans a line here and there, for example by noting the 10 shows from each of six TV decades that were good in their time, but not in the top 70; there are also lists of funniest characters and best spinoffs.

In Gitlin’s view, one sitcom — which he ranked No. 2 — changed comedy entirely.

“Every sitcom that I have in the book had to be judged as pre-‘All in the Family’ or post-‘All in the Family,’” he said.

Gitlin established a set of criteria for inclusion, among them the show’s impact, how long it originally ran, ratings, awards, how funny a show was and whether it is still respected.

Rich Heldenfels
Akron Beacon Journal



Land of Love and Drowning

Tiphany Yanique

A multigenerational novel set in Yanique’s native land of the Virgin Islands, “Love and Drowning” opens just before the U.S. arrives, after purchasing several of the islands from Denmark in 1917. It concludes in the 1970s.

The coming of the Americans — and the ensuing arrival of the tourists — will change everything. The newcomers snap up prime real estate and privatize beaches, increasingly isolating themselves from the native population — except when they want a dose of local color as a backdrop. Meanwhile, islanders are shipped off to war, experiencing Jim Crow firsthand in Louisiana — decades before their kids watch Birmingham and Selma on television.

But while Yanique’s novel keeps half an eye on these troublesome outsiders, its focus and energies are found elsewhere, as multiple narrators spin alternative histories rather than blandly accepting those being imposed. “Nothing ever happen just so,” the book’s most compelling character, Anette, tells us. “It must be story.” One might not be able to escape the past. But one can learn to read and tell its slant.

— Mike Fischer
Milwaukee Journal Sentinel



A Spy Among Friends

Ben Macintyre

A lot of spy novels would have you believe that espionage is all about elite globe-trotting adventures laced with good booze and cool toys. But this nonfiction book’s most intense scene is prosaic — two old friends, middle-aged English gentlemen who came up as spies through British intelligence, share a cup of tea while “lying cursoriously to each other” in a Beirut apartment in 1963. Some authors would turn that moment into literary Ambien. But here, it hums.

One of those men was H.A.R. “Kim” Philby, perhaps the most notorious double agent ever. For almost three decades, beginning in the mid-1930s, this upper-class Englishman worked as a Soviet spy in British intelligence, passing information to Moscow that would cost the lives of hundreds, if not thousands, while crippling British and American intelligence operations.

The other man having tea in that Beirut apartment was Nicholas Elliott, and about the only thing he didn’t have in common with Philby was his allegiance.

Philby’s story has been covered before. Macintyre’s aim here is to describe instead the “very British relationship” between these two men. He succeeds admirably.

— John Witwol/Newsday



The Kills

Richard House

If you’d like to immerse yourself in a novel during your August vacation, and if you’re skeptical of a world in which private contractors get away with dirty deeds outside the reach of the law, let me introduce you to Richard House’s “The Kills.”

Published in England in 2013 and long-listed for the Man Booker Prize, “The Kills” is an interlocking set of four novels under a single cover. It centers on a Brit named John Jacob Ford, who has taken a contract in Iraq for a shady multinational. On virtually a moment’s notice, Sutler is directed to disappear — a multimillion-dollar swindle is about to be exposed, and in return for taking the public fall and going underground, Sutler/Ford will be rewarded with hefty cash in a bank account. His escape, his difficulties trying to access the account, and an intense, multinational hunt for him drive much of the action.

Forget about the fog of war. “The Kills” reeks of the field of war.

“The Kills” has the world-weary, deadpan tone of spy novelist John le Carré, and a sense of the world falling apart that author Roberto Bolano might have approved of.

— Jim Higgins
Milwaukee Journal Sentinel



The String Diaries

Stephen Lloyd Jones

“The String Diaries” is hard to discuss without revealing too much. This is a book of authorial wizardry, as Jones hopscoches among three time periods and locales (late 1800s Hungary; 1970s France and England; and present-day Snowdonia, in northern Wales) with grace, wit and dexterity.

“The String Diaries” involves a partially human creature who develops a lust for a certain human woman and ends up pursuing her look-alike descendants through the centuries. How he does that is a marvel, a new take on a genre that one would have thought completely bled dry of new ideas by now.

It’s to Jones’ immense credit that, like the best authors of psychologically rich horror (Anne Rice and Glen Duncan come to mind), he resists taking the easy way out and making his villain one-dimensionally pure evil. Jakab inspires both pity and empathy, even as we despise his actions and fear for his victims.

Finally, Jones displays a rare gift for writing about children, fully developing them in what’s an essentially adult story. One of the children, in fact, gets set up as the possible protagonist for a sequel. Here’s hoping.

— Joy Tipping
The Dallas Morning News

WEEKEND: ENTERTAINMENT



DISNEY ENTERPRISES, INC./AP

Kermit the Frog, left, stars with Ricki Gervais in the recent DVD release "Muppets Most Wanted."

NEW ON DVD

"Muppets Most Wanted": The Muppets are manipulated into being part of a crime spree by an evil frog who looks like Kermit. The film picks up at the end of "The Muppets." After Kermit and the gang save their beloved theater, they are at a loss as to what to do next. A suggestion from a sleazy tour promoter, Dominic Badguy (Ricky Gervais), sends the Muppets on a world tour that is part of a complicated plan to steal the Crown Jewels. As has become the norm with these films, the movie is loaded with cameos. Adults who get bored with the flat story can at least try to guess which well-known actor is in a scene. You know a movie has problems when it takes a celebrity version of "Where's Waldo?" to keep the audience entertained. It's nice to have the Muppets back, but the euphoria of their return gets wiped away by this disappointing sequel. The movie proves it's not easy earning green again.

"Neighbors": The film looks at the conflict between Mac and Kelly Radner (Seth Rogen, Rose Byrne), a couple with a new baby, and the raucous Delta fraternity that moves into the house next door. What could have been a smart comedy about the battle of the ages too often finds itself at such a loss for anything funny that it resorts to an endless string of jokes about male sex organs. There will be those who will defend the movie saying it's a comedy and shouldn't be judged so seriously. There's nothing wrong with over-the-top, raunchy comedy. Rogen starred in a perfect example with last year's "This Is the End." The problem is that "Neighbors" is so poorly written it makes it easy to condemn both houses.

"The Blacklist: The Complete First Season": A standout performance by James Spader makes this one of TV's top dramas. The NBC series follows Raymond "Red" Reddington (Spader), a top criminal, who through a wide variety of mysterious twists and turns helps the FBI find and stop some of the world's most notorious criminals. The set includes 22 episodes, commentary on three key episodes and two featurettes.

Also available:
"Batman: Assault on Arkham": Next DC Universe original movie features Batman facing a major threat at Arkham Asylum.
"Bears": A year in the life of two mother bears.

"Turtle Power": Film chronicles the birth of the franchise about these unlikely superheroes, the Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles.

"The Devils Ride Season 2": Discovery Channel series about Sinister Mob, the fastest-growing motorcycle club in San Diego.

"Power Rangers Megaforce: A Battle To The Finish": Rangers battle to save the planet in the four final episodes of the 20th "Power Rangers" season.

"Baseball's Seasons: The 1980s": Kirk Gibson, Bo Jackson and the '86 Mets are spotlighted.

"Frankie & Alice": Go-go dancer battles dissociative identity disorder.

"Rage": Respectable businessman (Nicolas Cage) returns to his violent past to save his daughter.

—Rick Bentley/The Fresno Bee

Maksim Chmerkovskiy: 'I just want to win once'

By MOIRA MACDONALD
The Seattle Times

"Dancing has been in us, in people, since the Neanderthal age," says ballroom champion and longtime "Dancing with the Stars" pro Maksim Chmerkovskiy, on the phone last week. "There's something about moving, something about interpreting yourself to the music, that's attractive, that's interesting, that's intriguing, and everyone wishes they could do that."

Chmerkovskiy's been dancing since he was 4 years old in his native Ukraine, chosen from a class of preschoolers as one with a special talent. He's touring now, unbuttoned shirts and all, in "Ballroom with a Twist" — a dance/music show featuring "Dancing with the Stars" pros (also Karina Smirnoff, Sharna Burgess and brother Val Chmerkovskiy) as well as performers from "So You Think You Can Dance" and "American Idol." It's also, for him, a bit of a farewell tour: Chmerkovskiy, who won the most recent season of "Dancing with the Stars" with Olympic gold-medal-winning ice dancer Meryl Davis (the two danced with a silken perfection), announced last month that he would no longer compete on the show.

"I just don't want to replace Meryl and this experience with anyone else — it's so dear to me, so special, so much emotion involved into it," he said. "There's nobody out there that I think will come along that I will be able to connect with on this level. ... I don't want to win five, six, seven times, I just want to win once. It couldn't be more perfect."

It was a departure that's been a long time coming — he got tired, he said, of being "misinterpreted," seeing himself stuck with the label of "bad boy of the ballroom." The show routinely airs edited montages of rehearsal footage, at times seeming to choose moments in order to make each cast member fit a role: Chmerkovskiy, early on, was labeled the tempestuous one. "People don't understand where I come from," he said, referring to his background on the international ballroom circuit — "the same circuit as any other competition, like golf or tennis." Chmerkovskiy said he saw himself as a professional athlete, on the show to compete and win, and worked with his partners accordingly.

"I was the last one to understand that this is a TV

show, this is there for good times," he said. "I would try my best to win, I wouldn't try my best to just smile and walk around. So that was the misunderstanding between me and the show."

Though he doesn't rule out returning to "DWTS" as a judge ("Never say never! Anything's possible," he said, in an uncharacteristically brief answer during a pleasant, not-at-all-bad-boy interview ... hmmm), Chmerkovskiy's looking forward to other career options. He's already a co-owner of a chain of five dance studios in the New York/New Jersey area, called Dance With Me, and has launched a line of men's jewelry and acquired an agent to help him sign acting roles. And, with brother Val and fellow "DWTS" pro Tony Dovolani, he recently put together a one-night New York staging of a show called "SWAY: A Dance Trilogy."

No matter what, there will be dancing; the defining activity of his life since very early childhood. Asked if he had any advice for newcomers to the ballroom, he said, "Just go start from scratch and move, in close proximity with somebody else. It's a beautiful thing. The amount of happiness and joy that dancing brings to you is just — I don't know any other activity that does that. ... So if you have a local dance studio that you can go to, sign up, say that Maks said that I need to be happy and I need to do this and this needs to bring me joy."



Maksim Chmerkovskiy, left, and his dance partner, Meryl Davis, won the most recent season of "Dancing with the Stars." Chmerkovskiy announced last month that he would no longer compete on the show.

ABC

WEEKEND: HEALTH & FITNESS

On vacation, don't throw in the towel on diet, exercise

BY NORA KRUG
The Washington Post

A beach vacation can be a runner-mom's paradise: fresh air, free time and, if you're lucky, free baby-sitting. During annual trips to the Jersey Shore with my extended family, I'm happily up before my kids' 6 a.m. cry for chocolate chip pancakes, running longer and faster on the flat, stress-free ribbon of seaside road than I do on the hilly, anxiety- and traffic-clogged streets of my suburban neighborhood.

I realize that not everyone sees vacation as a time to escalate a fitness routine. If you're not a runner or a swimmer, or haven't bothered to lug a bike on the back of your car or don't have family around to watch your kids, it's not so easy to maintain your regimen. And with all that beautiful scenery and fun family activities to enjoy, it can be hard to find the motivation or time to exercise — or the justification for spending money on a gym guest pass, yoga studio or bike rental.

But exercise at the beach doesn't have to be difficult, expensive or burdensome. You can maintain your fitness through some basic exercises or even through beach activities you might be planning anyway — and if you decide to take the time off completely, the setback to your fitness level is easily restored, experts say.

If you decide on the minimalist option, you could bring a mat or towel to the beach and fashion your own yoga practice. You could also pack some lightweight exercise tools such as resistance bands or jump ropes, says Jo Zimmerman, an instructor in the department of kinesiology at the University of Maryland and a longtime trainer. Sue Immerman, a certified personal trainer at MAD Fitness in Takoma Park, Md., suggests buying two gallons of water and using them for a simple weightlifting routine.

An even more minimalist option: Use your family. "You have a 5-year-old nephew, you have a barbell," Zimmerman says. "Piggyback rides are great for the legs. Give a piggyback ride while doing squats and you have done some weighted squats."

Most of us, understandably, would prefer to have our back reclining into a beach chair. Many of her clients leave for vacation with the best of intentions, Immerman said in an email, but return "saying that they threw in the towel on eating well and exercise."

Yet all is not lost. First, says Rosemary Lindle, an exercise physiologist and an adjunct professor of kinesiology at the University of Maryland, studies show that you can maintain your fitness level even when taking some time off. Second, time off is itself an important part of any training program. "Think of your vacation as an active recovery or cross-training period," she said in an email. "A well-balanced, period of fitness provides the muscles with recovery breaks." On the beach, recovery could include lighter-level activities such as hiking, cycling, swimming, snorkeling, even beach volleyball.

But how well do these activities compare to a more typical exercise routine? As you might expect, it depends on both the activity and level of effort. An hour of

Break a sweat at the beach

All calories estimates below are based on an average 150-pound woman and 200-pound man. Numbers based on the accepted Metabolic Equivalent (MET) values from the compendium of physical activities. Activity/calories burned (estimates) for females/males

- 45-minute hike with a daypack: 399/532
- 30 minutes of beach volleyball: 272/364
- 30 minutes of sailing a Sunfish leisurely: 113/150
- 30 minutes of kayaking (moderate effort): 170/227
- 30 minutes of body-surfing waves: 102/136
- 30 minutes of wind surfing (not pumping for speed): 170/227
- 30 minutes of swimming in a bay: 205/272
- 30 minutes of scuba diving: 239/318
- 30 minutes of snorkeling: 170/227

— Source: Jessica Matthews, assistant professor of health and exercise science at Miramar College in San Diego and a certified personal trainer and health coach

Eat wisely at the shore

- 1 medium steamed, broiled or baked lobster (2.5 pound) w/butter: 342 calories
- 1 cup lobster salad: 189 calories
- Potato chips (1 1/4-ounce bag): 260 calories
- Turkey sandwich with mayo: 329 calories
- One 6-inch funnel cake: 275 calories
- One hamburger w/mayo on bun: 294 calories
- One hot dog with mustard or ketchup on bun: 284 calories
- One 8-ounce beer: 155
- Ice cream sandwich: 148 calories
- One medium peach: 59 calories
- One 1/4-inch slice of double-crusted peach pie: 335 calories

— Source: USDA Food Tracker choosemyplate.gov/supertracker-tools/supertracker.html

stand-up paddleboarding, for example, can burn as many as 545 calories, according to Jessica Matthews, a certified personal trainer and health coach and assistant professor of health and exercise science at Miramar College in San Diego which crunched some beach activity numbers. An hour of digging in the sand is almost as good: as many as 454 calories per hour (all numbers quoted here are approximate and for a typical 150-pound woman or 200-



Yoga offers a cheap and effective beach workout. All you need is a towel or a mat.

MCT



Men can burn about 227 calories snorkeling for 30 minutes while women can burn about 170 calories.

Detroit Free Press

pound man). Even lugging all those chairs and buckets to the beach can do you some calorie-burning good (as many as 73 calories burned for every 10 minutes carrying 15 pounds of gear).

And yet that iconic walk on the beach isn't necessarily the best option, says Immerman, especially if brisk walking isn't part of your regular routine. A 30-minute beach walk (at a 3.5 mph pace on flat-packed sand) burns about 147 calories for a woman and about 195 for a man, according to Matthews. That's a decent workout — "better than spending the entire week in a beach chair," Immerman conceded — but a long walk on soft and slanted sand can pose challenges to knees, hips and even shoulders and backs.

And of course be mindful when doing

exercises that seem to go hand-in-hand with eating. Biking to get a soft-serve cone, for example, isn't necessarily a net win. A 30-minute bike ride on a flat beach road burns up to 264 calories, according to Matthews' calculations. But that swirl cone could tip the balance with as many 335 calories, according to the USDA's Food Tracker. A glass of lemonade, at about 100 calories, might be a better way to cool off. Or better yet, stick to water.

Once you're back home, remember to ease back into your routine. "One week is not much time to be off at all," Immerman says. But be sure to warm up and pace yourself. "Foam roll or stretch after the workout and know that in a session or two you can be back to where you were when you left off."

WEEKEND: FAMILY

Back to school cool

Fun and fashion lead the way in school supplies

By LEANNE ITALIE
The Associated Press

It's school supply time and there's no shortage of nifty backpacks, pencil cases, erasers and more for kids young and older.

"Most people are looking for something unique," said Larina Lin, founder of Coolpencilcase.com, which sells supplies imported from Japan.

The sum families will spend on supplies this year is up slightly over last year, according to the National Retail Federation, based on a poll of 6,178 U.S. consumers conducted in July.

The average family with kids in kindergarten through 12th grade will spend \$669.28 on apparel, shoes, supplies and electronics, up 5 percent from last year, according to the trade group's 2014 Back-to-School Survey.

Requests from teachers for classroom contributions is a possible factor in increased spending on supplies, according to the survey, which predicted a 12 percent hike in such spending this summer over last — to an average of \$101.18 from \$90.49 in 2013.

Since 2009, the retail federation has been asking how the U.S. economy played out in school supply shopping. While spending has loosened up slightly this year over last, more families are going for store brands or generic items for school — 34 percent when compared to 32.8 percent last year, the survey said. And 25.6 percent hope to get along with last year's items, up from 23.7 percent last year.

Nearly 20 percent said they shop online more often to save money, up from 18.5 percent last year and the highest percentage ever noted by the retail federation. Here's a look at what's cool for school:

Pencil erasers

The pink kid might still rule, but Lin offers a way to make your own erasers. She sells kits for creating them out of special clay that can be molded like putty then dipped into boiling water for 10 minutes.

Each set includes a Kawaii-theme mold and 12 pieces of clay in bright green, yellow, red, blue and white. Head to YouTube for how-to videos and ideas for freehand designs. (Kawaii is a Japanese term for cute or unique.) Silicone molds work with the material to broaden design options.

Backpacks

There's a backpack for every sports fan, TV or movie character enthusiast and fashionista, but one new company, MadPax, has broken out with spiky designs in an array of colors and themes. The company has added funky block and bubble textures to its signature spikes, which look sharp but are soft to the touch.

JanSpans are plentiful with new colors and patterns. Kiplings are a Seoul-inspired abstract print and recently added a monogram option online.

Partnerships and licensed products

Staples and Teen Vogue have teamed up this year for a collection of notebooks, pencils, erasers and folders appealing to teen girls with florals, plaids and hearts. For younger boys, SpongeBob and Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles remain hot among licensed characters, the latter expected to get a boost with the recent release of the latest "Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles" movie, said Alison Corcoran, a senior vice president at Staples. "What we're seeing this year that's an evolution is this mixture of fun and fashion together," she said.

Locker accessories

On the functional front, LockerBones is in the mix as featured on ABC's "Shark Tank" earlier this year. As a way to keep lockers from becoming dumping grounds, Mississippi inventor Greg Cronin came up with an adjustable system of interlocking shelving for his daughter. He brought in a partner, Stephen Coachys, to pitch the TV sharks and wound up with a deal at Staples.

The shelving fits standard lockers and comes in pink and blue plastic or natural wood.

Pencil cases

Lin and other sellers point to the enduring popularity of the wide-eyed owl on pencil cases and other supplies. Lin's site designed Hootie the Owl for vinyl cases with: "I will be by your side wherever you go." They come in blue, red and yellow with a mesh compartment, elastic bands for chunky highlighters or markers and a roomy main compartment.

Hootie the Owl
pencil cases

COOLPENCILCASE.COM/AP

SPOUSE CALLS

Psychology yesterday, real military life today

A friend gave me a clipping from an old magazine, an article supposedly about military families, which brought home to me how much more our way of life is studied, understood and appreciated by those outside our world than it used to be.

The story, from a 1986 issue of *Psychology Today*, presumed to explore and analyze military life. Unfortunately, at the time there was so little data available about military families that the author had to rely on anecdotes, generalizations and unsubstantiated theories. She admitted in her story that studies and surveys of military families in the mid-1980s were either outdated or questionable. As a result, much of the story was either laughable or offensive. Sometimes both.

One civilian psychologist she interviewed, for example, asserted that military children often suffered from something he called "military family syndrome," which made them, he explained, more likely to have behavioral disorders.

Another clinician who treated military children said, "I see everything that a child psychiatrist who never saw a military child would see. Do I see it more frequently? My hunch is yes."

Yet another found military children so clean-cut and conscientious that she compared military life to "Leave-It-To-Beaverland."

In this century, we don't have to rely on hunches and other fiction. Federally and privately funded scholarly studies by the Rand Corporation have explored the effects of deployment on children, needs of military medical care, and the challenges of caregivers, among other issues. As a result, modern support and services for our community, though not perfect, are much more available and connected to the realities of military life.

Meanwhile, back in the '80s, *Psychology Today* printed stunning statements like, "Despite the stereotypes of blood-thirsty professional warriors, military personnel are not necessarily more belligerent than anyone else." And this one, "Many (military children) survive 'growing up military,' and some actually consider it a privilege."

A former executive of CHAMPUS, Tricare's predecessor, contributed this gem: "There is also a small group of aggressive men who joined the armed forces to live the warrior myth, who dress their kids in little uniforms and give them guns for toys."

Although some of those interviewed were quite willing to make broad generalizations based on limited knowledge, some important questions went unanswered. For instance, how much do military children worry about their military parents' safety?

"I don't think we have a clue," said a child psychologist from Bethesda Naval Medical Center. "It's something children deal with in a very quiet way."

This incredible article was published a year after I became a military wife, but I didn't read it then. I had no idea this is what the rest of the world thought of the life I had lived since birth. I could have told them a thing or two. So could many military family members, but no one was asking us.

Now they are. In addition to scientific studies, several yearly surveys give opportunities to address the needs in our own lives and our community. Organizations like Blue Star Family, National Military Family Association and the Military Officers Association of America sponsor surveys of the military population and inform policy-makers of the findings.

A survey by the Military Family Advisory Network is in progress now at militaryfamilyadvisorynetwork.org/survey/. The results will be provided to the Military Compensation and Retirement Modernization Commission, which advises the Department of Defense and Congress about the future of military benefits and budgets.

Today's military community has a greater opportunity to be heard, through surveys, studies, support organizations, as well as blogs, books and other media. We can speak out about the realities of military life. We have a voice; let's use it to tell our stories and to say goodbye to misconceptions about the lives we live.

Terri Barnes is the author of "Spouse Calls: Messages From a Military Life." Contact her at spousecalls@aol.com or at strides.com/go/spousecalls.



Terri Barnes



LockerBones locker organizers are fully customizable and come in pink and blue plastic or wood.

LOCKERBONES/AP



Nickelodeon Teenage Mutant Ninja Turtles hot hole pencil sharpener

STAPLES/AP



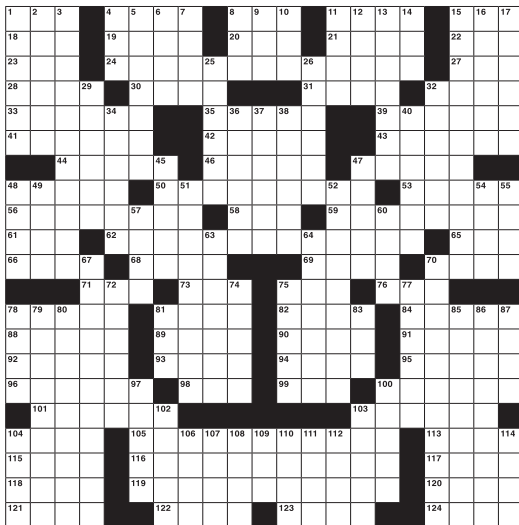
WEEKEND: CROSSWORD AND COMICS

NEW YORK TIMES CROSSWORD

NO. 1 FRIENDS

BY ELIZABETH C. GORSKI / EDITED BY WILL SHORTZ

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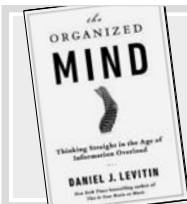
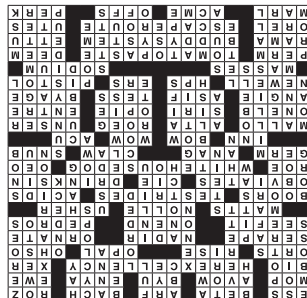
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GUNSTON STREET



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TV

It's not like it used to be

By DAVID BAUDER
The Associated Press

Manjula Stokes has twice sworn off television, once throwing a set off her deck in a fit over an ex-husband's sports obsession. Now she's a devotee of programs like "Downton Abbey," "Mad Men," "Survivor" and "Masters of Sex."

The teacher from Santa Cruz, Calif., illustrates a subtle change in society's attitude toward television. The medium is growing in stature, propelled by both art and technology. More worthy programs are available at a time when viewers are becoming more comfortable setting up their own schedules to watch.

"I feel it's more like reading a good book," Stokes said. "The acting is better, the direction is better. I think it's more serious as an art form."

A CBS survey of 700 people in the U.S. with Internet and television connections last year found that 28 percent said they're watching more television than they did a year ago. Seventeen percent say they're watching less, with the remainder indicating their habits are unchanged.

That might not seem like much, but there's a long history of people saying they are watching, or plan to watch, less TV—even as Nielsen measurements proved the opposite is true.

In other words, liking television is becoming more socially acceptable.

"You can go to a sophisticated party in New York City now and people will be talking about television programming, not the latest art film or the latest play," said David Poltrack, CBS' veteran chief researcher. "You can go to a bar in a lower

People are watching more programming but in different ways

socio-economic neighborhood and they'll be talking about television. They may be talking about different programs, but they'll be talking about television."

Now, for every award-winning drama there's a series about botched plastic surgeries, naked dating or Kardashians. But the push among cable networks during the past decade to make their own original series has significantly increased the amount of quality programs.

For years, polls uncovered a certain shameful attitude toward watching television. When asked in 2000 how much time they spent watching TV the previous day, 84 percent of respondents told the Pew Research Center it was less than four hours. That didn't jibe with the Nielsen company's finding that the average American that year watched four hours, 15 minutes of television a day. A Gallup poll in 1990 found 49 percent of people said they spent too much time watching television. Only 19 percent said they watched too little. Nine years ago when CBS began its annual survey, more people said they were cutting back on TV time.

This year, Nielsen estimates the average American watches four hours, 50 minutes of TV a day.

"I think the quality is better," said Yael Chanoff, a 25-year-old writer from San

Francisco. She's a fan of smart comedies such as NBC's "Parks and Recreation." Many older shows Chanoff has seen, even hits like "Friends," strike her as cliché-ridden.

Some better shows now have an attention to detail that reminds Stokes, who is 59, of work done by the MGM movie studio during the last century.

Cory Phare, a 33-year-old academic conference director from Denver, said he grew up watching a lot of television but drifted away. The ability to binge on well-written dramas such as "Breaking Bad," "The Americans" and "Dexter" through Netflix drew him back in. He just finished going back to watch the entire run of "The West Wing."

"Even when I'm on a lunch break, I pull it up on my smartphone," he said.

That's another key to television's resurgence. Viewers no longer depend on prime-time schedules set up in Hollywood boardrooms; they don't even have to depend on television. Stokes, Chanoff and Phare all consider themselves fans of modern-day TV, and none of them have cable or satellite subscriptions. "My friends all watch it on computer," Chanoff said. She finds a friend with cable to watch "Parks & Recreation," the only show she cares to watch live.

Television continues on firm footing financially, despite the rise of digital video outlets like Netflix and YouTube. The research firm eMarketer Inc. predicted TV ad spending will hit \$78.6 billion in 2018, up from \$66.4 billion last year.

Fears of so-called cord-cutting, in which people drop their TV subscriptions and rely on online video services, was "surprisingly benign" in the second quarter, with just 305,000 households—less than one-tenth of a percent—quitting pay TV, according to financial advisory firm MoffettNathanson LLC.

Music award shows announce nominees

■ The Boxcars, Blue Highway and The Del McCoury Band are the leading nominees in the 2014 International Bluegrass Music Awards. The nominations were announced Wednesday in Nashville, by the International Bluegrass Music Association, which will hold the award show on Oct. 2 in Raleigh, N.C. Individually and as a five-piece group, The Boxcars received 10 nominations, including album of the year and two for song of the year. Members Ron Stewart and Adam Steffey also drew individual nominations for performance and musicianship. Blue Highway received nine nominations, including entertainer of the year and album of the year, as well as nominations for band members Tim Stafford and Rob Ickes. The Del McCoury Band has six nominations with individual nominations for members Del McCoury and Jason Carter.

■ Hillsong United, Lecrae, Mandisa and Matt Maher lead the 45th annual Dove Awards nominations for artists with five apiece for gospel and Christian music excellence. The nominations were announced Wednesday at Lipscomb University in Nashville, where the award show will be held Oct. 7. Producer and songwriter Wayne Haun leads all nominees with 12 nominations overall. Hillsong United, Lecrae and Mandisa are all up for artist of the year along with NEEDTOBREATHE, Casting Crowns and Switchfoot. Maher, Hillsong United and Mandisa also are nominated for contemporary Christian performance of the year along with KING & COUNTRY and Natalie Grant.

Other news

■ "Today" host Savannah Guthrie has a new daughter. Vale Guthrie Feldman was born Wednesday morning at a New York hospital. Husband Mike Feldman was by Guthrie's side.

■ A judge says Chris Brown has been doing well and following his probation rules since his release from jail in June. The singer appeared in a Los Angeles court Wednesday for a progress report. Judge James Brandin reduced Brown's drug test requirement from three times to twice a week and said he's been in compliance with his probation officer and cooperating with his therapist.

■ Kings of Leon is putting the band's tour plans on ice for the rest of August to allow drummer Nathan Poffolivi to recover from a broken rib.

■ Justin Bieber's guilty plea to charges of careless driving and resisting arrest puts an end to a legal saga that began seven months ago inside a rented Lamborghini at what police called an illegal drag race. The judge who accepted Bieber's plea Wednesday said it's time for the 20-year-old singer to stop his misbehavior—especially for his millions of fans.

■ David Letterman is a finalist for this year's Thurber Prize for American Humor. Letterman and illustrator Bruce McCall have been nominated for the satirical picture book "This Land Was Made for You and Me (But Mostly Me)."

From The Associated Press



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 Richard Braun, General Manager, Europe
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EDITORIAL

Terry Leonard, Editorial Director
 leonard.terry@stripes.com
 Robert H. Reid, Senior Managing Editor
 reid.robert@stripes.com
 Sam Amrhein, Deputy Managing Editor
 amrhein.sam@stripes.com
 Tina Croley, Enterprise Editor
 croley.tina@stripes.com

BUREAU STAFF

Europe/Mideast

Teddie Weyr, News Editor Europe/Mideast
 weyr.teddie@stripes.com;
 +49(0)631.3615.9310; cell
 +49(0)173.315.1881; DSN (314)583.9310

Pacific

Paul Alexander, News Editor Pacific
 alexander.paul@stripes.com
 +81-3-6385.5377; cell (080)5883.1673
 DSN (315)225.5377

Washington

Patrick Dickson, Washington Bureau Chief
 dickson.pat@stripes.com
 (+1)(202)761.0908; DSN (312)763.0908
 Brian Bowers, Assistant Managing Editor, News
 bowers.brian@stripes.com
 Joe Gromelski, Assistant Managing Editor, Web
 gromelski.joe@stripes.com
 Sean Moores, Assistant Managing Editor,
 Sports, Features and Graphics
 moores.sean@stripes.com

CONTACT US

Washington

+1(202)761.0900; DSN (312)763.0900;
 fax: (+1)(202)761.0890
 529 14th Street NW, Suite 350, Washington, DC
 20045-1301

Reader letters

letters@stripes.com

Additional contacts

stripes.com/contacts

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OPINION

Crises won't let 'Pacific pivot' take root

By GARY SCHMITT

What do President Barack Obama's decision to authorize airstrikes against the Sunni militant Islamic State and his previous commitment to send American military advisers and trainers back into Iraq have to do with his "pivot" to Asia? Everything and nothing.

Nothing in the sense that the battle in Iraq has little bearing today on what China might do in the South China Sea tomorrow. But everything in the sense that the underlying assumption that drove Obama to pivot away from the Middle East toward Asia — to "rebalance," as it was later called — is very much in question.

When the rebalance toward Asia was officially confirmed as administration policy in January 2012, the Pentagon's release of a new strategic policy guidance, the underlying impetus was clear: Defense resources could no longer support the long-standing U.S. strategy of maintaining the capability to fight two major conflicts at the same time — the "two-war standard." With no apparent political prospects for closing the gap in military resources, the administration made a strategic decision to stabilize an increasingly problematic situation in Asia.

The logic for paying more attention to Asia was apparent. The region was seen as a key area of expansion for the American economy. Politically, it was home to the populous liberal democracies, India and Indonesia; a newly vibrant South Korea; and long-standing friends and allies such as Taiwan and Japan.

It was also home, of course, to a rising China. Initially, the Obama team had hoped to create a new balance with Beijing. But as rising Asia tension-inducing concerns such as China's human rights record, the plan was to develop a virtual smorgasbord of agenda items that would reflect overlapping interests between the two countries.

The administration was doubling down on a policy of engagement.

As Obama decided when the Chinese delegation pledged his efforts to salvage the 2009 Copenhagen climate change summit, overlapping interests are not the same thing as having the same priorities. China's leaders were undoubtedly concerned about the country's environmental problems, but their more pressing concern was making sure that the country continues to grow economically. More stringent carbon emission standards were, they believed, at odds with that more immediate need.

As the Obama team also discovered, its attempts to engage more deeply with Beijing were complicated by the government's reaction. Beijing read these efforts as an implicit signal that a war-weary and recession-ridden Washington was scrambling to make the best of its declining global position. Instead of accepting the administration's offer of a new "G-2" condominium, China's ambitions seemed to grow no recede — as it continued a military buildup and became even more assertive with neighboring states.

It was principally that deteriorating state of affairs that the administration rightly wanted to address with the rebalance.

It also coincided with the administration's perspective that continuing to draw down military forces in Europe was reasonable in the absence of any perceived security problem facing the continent. It also squared with the president's own determination to end, as much as possible, military involvement in the Middle East and North Africa. Two-war capability isn't needed if your focus is really on only half the globe.

But that does not take into account a key strategic reason for maintaining two-war capability. According to the 1997 Quadrennial Defense Review, a possible military policy and spending plan, having "a core capability is central ... to avoiding a situation in which an aggressor in one region might be tempted to take advantage when

U.S. forces are heavily engaged elsewhere." This broader military capacity also allowed the Clinton Pentagon argued for "continued engagement in shaping the international environment to reduce the chances that such threats will develop in the first place." In other words, power does abhor a vacuum. If the U.S. is not there to deter, would-be aggressors will probably take advantage.

Isn't this the situation the country faces today? As the administration pivoted away from Europe and the Middle East, our adversaries — be they Russia, Iran or the jihadists — have become emboldened and more than willing to fill the vacuum we have left. Ironically, the Obama team harshly criticized the previous administration for foreign policies it viewed as off target — they accused the Bush administration of spending too much time focused on the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan and far too little on American diplomatic, economic and security interests in Asia. Yet today the very hot spots that are consuming the current administration's attention and dominating Secretary of State John Kerry's travel schedule are precisely those areas the Obama White House has wanted to disengage from militarily.

Without question, giving greater attention to Asia is called for, but if it comes at the expense of other key parts of the globe, it probably will be counterproductive. As the president is discovering, America's resources and attention will continue to be drawn back into those areas as the security situation worsens.

A true rebalancing is neither possible, given the state of today's U.S. military, nor likely to be sustainable if planned defense cuts are not reversed. The reality is that the United States cannot rebalance on the cheap.

Gary Schmitt is director of the Marilyn Ware Center for Security Studies at the American Enterprise Institute. This column first appeared in the Los Angeles Times.

Airstrikes on Islamic State will lose effectiveness

By ROBERT H. SCALES

In the winter of 1951, President Dwight Eisenhower reluctantly allowed the French army to employ American napalm against the Viet Minh at the Battle of Vinh Yen. The effect was electric. Enemy soldiers were petrified.

"The bomb falls closely behind us, and I feel its fiery breath," a Viet Minh officer recounted in a diary passage quoted in *How the Fall's History* by "Strat" Myer Joy. "The men are now fleeing in all directions. ... I stop at the platoon commander's ... his eyes were wide with terror. 'What is this? The atom bomb?'"

In a short time, however, the psychological impact of the pyrotechnics of burning napalm faded. To the Vietnamese, napalm became just another kind of bomb, deadly and destructive to be sure, but no more frightening than any other air-delivered weapon. The French increased the use of napalm in subsequent battles, but by the time the French army surrendered to the Viet Minh in 1954 at Dien Bien Phu, the Viet Minh had learned that napalm, like all airstrikes, could be avoided through concealment, dispersion and entrenchment.

Right now, the Islamic State is going through this same evolutionary process along the western border of Kurdistan. As one can see from the grainy black-and-white "gun camera" tapes released by the Pentagon, the U.S. airstrikes of the past week have mostly succeeded. Lazy and overconfident Islamic State forces positioned their artillery and mortars in the open. Their convoys were bunched together and tended to travel along established

highways, where they could easily be spotted by drones. As planes approached, fighters cowered in fear or ran away.

Expect them to learn quickly from these mistakes. Many Islamic State commanders are former Baathist officers who have seen U.S. firepower in action and understand how to respond to it. Some are veterans of almost three decades of Syrian bomb strikes and are comfortable with quickly taking cover at the first sight of aircraft overhead. Recent images show they are dispersing their newly acquired U.S. tanks, Humvees and artillery. They also are beginning to hide their command posts in villages and fighting in the cities of Syria. Bombs and supplies are being stuffed into houses, where they cannot be spotted from the air. It's an old tactic that works. Just ask the Israelis.

Recent history suggests there will be strategic consequences from seeking to blunt the Islamic State advance through airpower alone. First, the effectiveness of pinpoint strikes will diminish quickly; they generally take only a few weeks for a disciplined force to become inured to the psychological effects of such firepower.

Second, as the enemy becomes harder to kill, a greater investment will be needed to get the same results. Soon "targeted strikes" by one or two Syrian bomb strikes will be meaningless, and more bombs will be needed. This will require a proper campaign, which will increase the density of aircraft overhead and the risk to pilots. We saw this happen in the Balkans in 1999.

Third, as targets get harder to locate from the air, it will become necessary to push ground reconnaissance units for-

ward to find and flush Islamic State units into the open. This task will involve greater risk not just to Kurdish peshmarga fighters, but also to U.S. Special Forces units that must accompany them.

Fourth, as we increase our killing power and the Islamic State retreats into towns and cities, images of dead children — and questions about civilian casualties — may emerge in the global media. Eventually, terrible as it is, the Islamic State narrative will begin to trump the U.S. narrative. When that moment arrives, we will have no other option but to turn the aircraft carriers around and go home.

As the bombing, however, would be the terrible consequences of the Islamic State's managing to shoot down a piloted U.S. aircraft. Remember, these are clever and well-equipped soldiers who have downed many Syrian fighter jets over the past three years. Terrible images of a captured U.S. flier on an Islamic State website would inflame the American people.

The bottom line is simple. In a firepower approach to war, escalation and mission creep are both inevitable and necessary. As the enemy grows more skilled, we will be left with two unattractive alternatives: escalate until tragedy occurs or accept battlefield stalemate and the American people tire of these "targeted strikes." And when we fly away with the Islamic State still dominant on the battlefield, the terrorists will proclaim that the U.S. is a cowardly country that has been beaten again.

Robert H. Scales, a retired Army major general, is a former commander of the U.S. Army War College. This column first appeared in The Washington Post.

OPINION

What newspapers are saying at home

The following editorial excerpts are selected from a cross section of newspapers throughout the United States. The editorials are provided by The Associated Press and other stateside syndicates.

Illegal crossing not only crime The (Bowling Green, Ky.) Daily News

It's no secret our southern border is in chaos with all of the illegal immigrants coming into this country and not nearly enough is being done about it.

President Barack Obama has done nothing but turn a blind eye to the situation, Senate Majority Leader Harry Reid, D-Nev., said with a straight face that our southern border is secure. The only person who has shown any type of leadership on the issue is Texas Gov. Rick Perry, who has sent 1,000 National Guard troops to the border.

Individuals are subject to arrest, prosecution and jail time when they commit crimes while being in our country illegally. Some serve their time before they're deported and pay a minimal fine. Others just vanish into the population only to defy our laws again.

Once these lawbreakers serve time, they cause a major problem by coming back — illegally — again. Some commit violent crimes when they return.

The latest such example involves the murder of a U.S. border agent in Texas. The immigrants, Gustavo Tijerina, 30, and Ismael Hernandez, 40, are charged with the first-degree murder of border patrol agent Javier Vega Jr.

They have confessed to killing Vega, who was off-duty when he was murdered by these two thugs. ... They wouldn't have been able to kill him if our country had secure borders as Reid attests.

What is so outrageous about this case, besides the murder of a U.S. citizen, is the fact that the men have extensive records of being deported and again illegally entering our country. ...

It is quick to claim these two men have no respect for our laws or human life. Those who respect our laws and want to come to this country to reside ... go through the proper legal channels to enter our country.

The U.S. public still hasn't received adequate answers on that tragedy from U.S. Attorney General Eric Holder. Obama, Holder and Reid obviously don't care what is occurring on our southern border. Their inaction is proof of that.

US backing a butcher in Egypt The Washington Post

President Barack Obama insists that it is in the U.S. interest to maintain a strategic partnership with Egypt's new authoritarian government, while Secretary of State John Kerry keeps insisting that strongman Gen. Abdel-Fattah el-Sissi actually heads a democracy. So the reality check provided by Human Rights Watch this week is particularly worthy of attention. According to a meticulous, yearlong investigation carried out by the group, the administration's policy is to guard against the possibility of killings of demonstrators in a single day in recent history" and deserves prosecution for crimes against humanity.

Don't expect the U.N. Human Rights Council or the Europeans marching against Israel to notice, but the massacre staged by Egyptian security forces on Aug. 14, 2013, in Cairo's Rabaa Square far exceeds, in its wanton use of force and calculated slaughter of women and children, any action by Israel during the recent fighting in Gaza. According to the Human Rights Watch investigation, at least 817 people, and probably more than 1,000, were killed when police and army troops advanced into the



square from each of its five main entrances, backed by armored personnel carriers, bulldozers and snipers on rooftops.

Tens of thousands of people, including many women and children, were camped in the square in protest of the military's July 3 coup against the elected government of Mohammed Morsi. Twelve hours later the area was littered with bodies and its mosque and hospital were on fire. In addition, security forces detained more than 800 people, whom they beat, tortured and in some cases summarily executed, according to witnesses interviewed by Human Rights Watch.

Perhaps the most shocking finding of the report is that senior Egyptian leaders anticipated and planned on the mass casualties. Interior Ministry officials told human rights workers nine days before the operation that they expected up to 3,500 deaths. A year later, authorities deny any wrongdoing and have not charged a single officer in connection with the killings. On the contrary, a monument celebrating the security forces has been erected in Rabaa Square. Human Rights Watch's lawyers believe that more than a dozen senior officials who ordered or oversaw the operation should be investigated for crimes against humanity, including el-Sissi.

More people died on Aug. 14 in Rabaa Square than in Beijing's Tiananmen Square in 1989 or in any mass killing of protesters since then, the human rights group reckons. In the last 12 months the most repressive regime seen in Egypt in decades has taken hold.

The White House seems to believe that its unprincipled embrace of the regime and cynical promotion of the falsehood that it is "restoring democracy" will advance broader U.S. interests in the Middle East. It's a bad bet.

From pain can come progress The Kansas City (Mo.) Star

The scenes and reports coming out of Ferguson, Mo., and some of the uglier, harder-to-scramble parts of north St. Louis County are ugly and surreal, like something happening in another time or a different part of the world.

This urban swath of Missouri has suddenly come to resemble a military zone, as heavily armed riot police face off against civilians, many of whom stand their ground with hands in the air and rage on their faces.

The fury that began on Saturday when a Ferguson police officer shot an unarmed teenager, 18-year-old Michael Brown, has manifested itself in demonstrations in the days since.

Some looting and vandalism have occurred, which serve only to detract from the urgent need to find out what happened.

But police must not make a bad situation worse. Reports of officers using tear gas and rubber bullets on citizens who were doing nothing more than trying to make

their way home are extremely concerning. Police in Ferguson and north St. Louis County ... need to keep the peace and protect people's property but with the least show of force required.

Also very worrisome are continued demands to name the police officer who shot Brown. An Internet vigilante group on Tuesday threatened to release information about the whereabouts of family members of the Ferguson police chief if the name of the officer continued to be withheld.

It is true that Michael Brown had no choice but to be named as the latest unarmed young black man to be killed by a law enforcement officer. But the quest for justice in his name will not be served by further violence. The identity of the police officer will come out in due course; right now the volatility of the situation justifies the decision to withhold it. ...

Based on reflections by people who knew him, there is little in Brown's background to square with the accusation offered by Ferguson police that he reached into a police cruiser and struggled for the officer's gun. Brown's companion has offered a disturbing version of events that portrays the officer as the aggressor. Whatever the truth, it is safe to say that Brown should not have died on Saturday. ...

Attorneys with the civil rights division of the U.S. Justice Department are working with the FBI on an investigation separate from a probe underway by the St. Louis County police. If Brown's death was as unprompted as his companion's account suggests, the officer must be brought to trial.

Meanwhile, we must listen to the people who have raised their hands in solidarity with Michael Brown. He is not an isolated incident but yet another symbol of the indignities and dangers that black people continue to face in America. The nation ignores those voices at its peril.

More jobs, but they pay less Orange County (Calif.) Register

Two new reports are on the way that, taken together, paint a pretty good picture of how the U.S. labor force has fared since the economic recovery began in June 2009.

On Monday, the U.S. Conference of Mayors released a report, prepared by IHS Global Insight, noting that U.S. payroll employment reached an all-time high this past spring, finally surpassing the pre-recession peak of 138.4 million jobs, reached in the first quarter of 2008. Then the Labor Department reported Tuesday that there were 4.7 million job openings on the last business day in June, not only a slight uptick from May, but also the highest number of openings in 13 years.

If the reports stopped there, it would be cause for celebration, from Orange County, Calif., to Orange County, Fla. But, as a wise man famously advised, all that glitters is not gold. Indeed, the Conference of Mayors report laments that jobs gained during the

economic recovery pay an average 23 percent less than jobs lost during the so-called Great Recession.

The annual wage was \$61,637 in sectors where jobs were lost in the economic downturn, which began in December 2007, while the average wage of new jobs gained through the second quarter of this year was only \$47,171. ...

In the Labor Department's monthly report on Job Openings and Labor Turnover — known as JOLTS — it has been held out by Federal Reserve chief Janet Yellen as an important barometer of the state of the nation's job market.

Continued strength in the next several JOLTS reports could mean a move by the Fed to ratchet up short-term interest rates. ... But Yellen and the Fed's board of governors are not strictly looking at job openings. They also are looking at the number of workers who voluntarily quit jobs and the number of workers hired.

In June, when workers voluntarily leave their employers, it usually means they have found better — usually higher-paying — jobs. That's a sign of a dynamic labor market. Similarly, when that nation's employers are competing with each other to hire workers to fill job openings, it's a sign of robust economic growth.

In June, some 2.5 million workers quit a job, the most since June 2008. Meanwhile, some 4.8 million Americans were hired in June.

Regrettably, that quit rate was a mere 1.8 percent in June, which is trending somewhat upward, but remains at a historically low level.

So, American workers are to be forgiven if they are not especially bullish about the nation's labor market. After five years of putative economic recovery, they almost certainly expected more.

CIA lawlessness long allowed The (Newark, N.J.) Star-Ledger

The forthcoming release of the Senate committee report on the CIA's pointless use of torture will likely accomplish two things: It will make the agency look even more lawless than its reputation, and it will put its beleaguered director in the cross hairs of reformers.

And what happens after the nation gasps and turns to Jimmy Kimmel?

John Brennan, who has served the last three presidents, apologized last week for five CIA employees "hacking the computers" of Senate staffers investigating the agency — after he had denied the charge for six months. Yet even if that skullduggery was done with the CIA director's approval, it should be noted that such deceit isn't as serious as the CIA's dedication to years of lying about it, but it would be a mild surprise if Congress focuses on the felony.

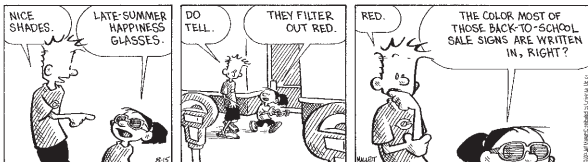
Indeed, the hacking matter is something the Justice Department must explore. But the larger issue is whether an oversight authority will allow a deranged blob of the intelligence community — all 17 agencies — especially the CIA — to carry on with the same impunity it enjoyed when it treated humans with the regard normally reserved for lab rats.

President Barack Obama, who banned torture on his second day in office, says he understood why it happened in the aftermath of 9/11. But the CIA is to carry on as a moral contingency, and misses the point. The practice went on throughout the Bush years, with no consequences for those responsible.

Will there even be an outcry when the 6,300-page report reveals how CIA brutality is justified? ...

Chiefly, the CIA is not prone to CIA activity had it right in 1975: "Intelligence agencies have undermined the constitutional rights of citizens," it concluded, "primarily because checks and balances designed by the framers of the Constitution to assure accountability have not been applied." Four decades later, we're still waiting.

Frazz



Dilbert



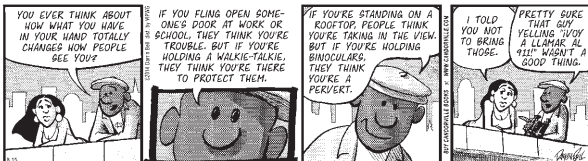
Pearls Before Swine



Non Sequitur



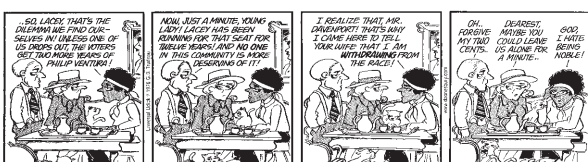
Candorville



Get Fuzzy



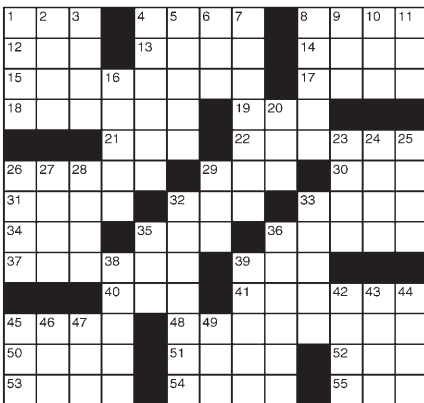
Doonesbury



Fort Knox



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



ACROSS

- 1 TV waitress
- 4 Stroller, in London
- 8 "— of Our Lives"
- 12 Manmade seat?
- 13 Luau entertainment
- 14 Bread spread
- 15 Saint of Hollywood
- 17 Piquancy
- 18 Polish president, 1990-95
- 19 Away from NNNW
- 21 Slithery fish
- 22 Tuna holder
- 26 Metal fasteners
- 29 Pioneer of Dadaism
- 30 Poker player's "bullet"
- 31 Wading bird
- 32 Pair
- 33 Fairy tale baddie
- 34 "That's show —"
- 35 Formal garb
- 36 Reeves/Bullock movie
- 37 Radio interference
- 39 That girl
- 40 Blond shade
- 41 County, in Louisiana
- 45 Pinnacle
- 48 Rosary recitation
- 50 Site of great activity

DOWN

- 54 Margarine servings
- 55 Witness
- 1 Soared
- 2 Kilauwa outflow
- 3 October birthstone
- 4 Aspects
- 5 Countrified
- 6 "The Greatest"
- 7 Baton wielder
- 8 Flower shop amount
- 9 Headly quaff
- 10 "Of course"
- 11 Drunkard
- 16 Bumps into
- 20 Try the tea
- 23 Zoo structure
- 24 Farm fraction
- 25 Requirement
- 26 Clothing protectors
- 27 Last write-up?
- 28 Joel's "Cabaret" co-star
- 29 Verb tense (Abbr.)
- 32 "Nude Descending a Staircase" painter
- 33 Met show
- 35 "— the season ..."
- 36 Embarrasses
- 38 One of Franklin's certainties
- 39 Exhausted
- 42 Eye part
- 43 Trigonometry function
- 44 Cod cousin
- 45 — moment
- 46 Glutton
- 47 Night before
- 49 By way of

Answer to Previous Puzzle



8-15

CRYPTOQUIP

D O V B Q F L G M X F L Q V G G B O R
Y R W H F M W H N O B P R E F W R
C F U R P F M X C F D C F U R Y G V I B C ?

B O R Y W R - C R R M H I N M V X .
Yesterday's Cryptoquip: IF A HAPPY FELLOW'S FACE LIGHTS UP AT THE SLIGHTEST PROVOCATION, HE'S A VERY EASY-GLOWING GUY.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: X equals Y

Frazz



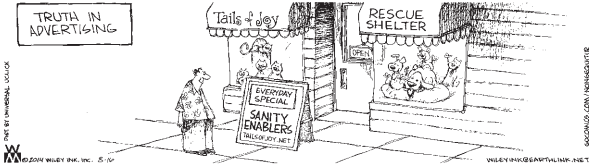
Dilbert



Pearls Before Swine



Non Sequitur



Candorville



Get Fuzzy



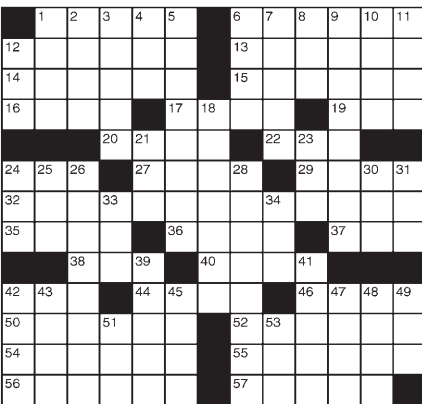
Doonesbury



Fort Knox



Eugene Sheffer Crossword



ACROSS

- 1 Serengeti equine
- 6 On — of (for)
- 12 Allergy cause
- 13 Tax cheat
- 14 Beethoven piece
- 15 "Shoo!"
- 16 Desire
- 17 Singer Campbell
- 19 Spacecraft compartment
- 20 Nil
- 22 Body art, for short
- 24 — carts
- 27 Seductress
- 29 Laugh-a-minute sort
- 32 Neil Diamond song
- 35 Crosby's pal
- 36 Mystery writer
- 37 Profit
- 38 Conclusion
- 40 Array at the eye doctor's
- 42 — culpa
- 44 Loosen
- 46 N. Mex. neighbor
- 50 Out of the storm
- 52 Split
- 54 Strains
- 55 De-creased?
- 56 Least normal
- 57 Casino supply

DOWN

- 1 Author — Neale Hurston
- 2 Carolina college
- 3 Intense media campaign
- 4 Fun and games
- 5 William Hopper and Philip Marlowe, e.g.
- 6 Actress Neuwirth
- 7 Occurrence
- 8 Crone
- 9 Pet shelter deal
- 10 Fallon's predecessor
- 11 Pebbles' dad
- 12 Churchgoer's place
- 13 Winding street in San Francisco
- 21 Leading lady?
- 23 Upper limb
- 24 Bonfire residue
- 25 Zodiac cat
- 26 Pacified
- 28 Happening at intervals
- 30 Raw rock
- 31 Stick with a kick
- 33 X rating?
- 34 Aries
- 39 Guys
- 41 Taste
- 42 Japanese soup
- 43 Writer Bagnold
- 45 Egg container
- 47 Orange coat
- 48 Midmonth date
- 49 Londoner's letter
- 51 "— got it!"
- 53 401(k) alternative

Answer to Previous Puzzle



8-16

CRYPTOQUIP

MX XURG VMZVBSBPB, GWNB

NMSUW NBY MZB GXMYKRYF

MZWPKYK XUB FZRAA PGRYP

EZWEMYB AMYFPMFB.

Yesterday's Cryptoquip: WHAT COULD YOU CALL THE PERIOD RIGHT BEFORE SOMEBODY SOWS SOME PLANTS? THE PRE-SEEDING DAY.

Today's Cryptoquip Clue: X equals T

BUSINESS/WEATHER

Report: Retail sales stagnant in July

By REBECCA ROBBINS

The Washington Post

The stars were supposed to be alighting for the retail industry. With more Americans working and a key measure of consumer confidence at its highest level in nearly seven years, many economists predicted that retail sales would rise modestly for the sixth straight month.

But on Wednesday, the Commerce Department reported that

retail sales stayed flat in July, a sobering reminder that stagnant growth is keeping consumers cautious.

Growth of retail and food services sales saw virtually no change in July compared with June, and showed just 0.1 percent growth excluding automobiles and gas. The July figures marked the retail industry's worst performance since bad weather kept shoppers home in January.

"It's a bit of a head-scratcher, given all the positive news we've been seeing on the labor front," Ken Perkins, president of Retail Metrics, said of the unexpectedly low July sales figures.

July's numbers were pulled down in part by weak department store sales, which fell 0.7 percent. That performance was highlighted by retail giant Macy's, which posted weak second quarter financial results on Wednesday. Macy's saw its sales for the quar-

ter rise by 3.3 percent year over year, falling short of analysts' predictions.

The news was so disappointing that Macy's downgraded its same-store sales outlook for the year to 1.5 to 2 percent, down from its previous forecast of 2.5 to 3 percent growth.

Same-store sales, which do not include stores opened or closed in the past 12 months, are considered a key measure of a retailer's health.

EUROPE GAS PRICES

Country	Super E10	Super unleaded	Super plus	Diesel
Germany	\$3.88	\$3.987	\$4.153	\$4.146
Change in price	-1.0 cents	-1.7 cents	-1.6 cents	-1.0 cents
Netherlands	---	\$4.788	\$5.073	\$4.999
Change in price	---	-5.4 cents	-5.5 cents	-1.4 cents
U.K.	---	\$3.957	\$4.123	\$4.116
Change in price	---	-1.7 cents	-1.6 cents	-1.0 cents
Azores	---	---	\$4.099	---
Change in price	---	---	-1.6 cents	---
Guam	---	\$3.980	\$4.180	\$4.240
Change in price	---	no change	no change	no change
Turkey	---	---	\$4.248	\$4.993*
Change in price	---	---	-1.1 cents	no change
Italy	---	---	---	---
Change in price	\$4.180	no change	no change	no change

PACIFIC GAS PRICES

Country	Unleaded	Super unleaded	Super plus	Diesel
Japan	---	\$5.879	---	\$5.829
Change in price	---	+19.0 cents	---	-1.0 cents
Okinawa	\$3.639	---	---	\$3.829
Change in price	-3.0 cents	---	---	-1.0 cents
South Korea	\$3.629	\$3.979	\$3.969	\$3.969
Change in price	-1.0 cents	---	-1.0 cents	---
Guam	\$3.619**	\$3.799	\$3.969	---
Change in price	-1.0 cents	-1.0 cents	-1.0 cents	---

* Diesel EFD ** Midgrade
For the week of Aug. 16-22

MARKET WATCH

Aug. 13, 2014

Dow Jones Industrials	+91.26
Nasdaq composite	+44.87
Standard & Poor's 500	+12.97
Russell 2000	+8.75
	1,141.78

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Euro costs (Aug. 15)	\$1.3742
Dollar buys (Aug. 15)	€0.7277
British pound (Aug. 15)	\$1.71
Japanese yen (Aug. 15)	100.00
South Korean won (Aug. 15)	999.00

Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3771
British pound	\$1.6687/0.5993
Canada (dollar)	1.0902
China (Yuan)	6.1553
Denmark (Krone)	5.5622
Egypt (Pound)	7.1525
Euro	\$1.3404/0.7461
Hong Kong (Dollar)	7.7509
Hungary (Forint)	232.83
Israel (Sheqel)	3.4662
Japan (Yen)	102.37
Kuwait (Dinar)	0.2833
Norway (Krone)	6.1425
Philippines (Peso)	43.58
Poland (Zloty)	3.12
Saudi Arabia (Riyal)	3.7506
Singapore (Dollar)	1.2447
South Korea (Won)	1,020.25
Switzerland (Franc)	0.9038
Thailand (Baht)	31.85
Turkey (New Lira)	1.486

(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banking facilities in the country of issuance for Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom. For nonlocal currency exchange rates (i.e., the Netherlands and the United Kingdom), which with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to the dollar, except for the U.S. dollar, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is dollars-to-euro.)

INTEREST RATES

Prime rate	3.25
Discount rate	7.00
Federal funds market rate	0.09
3-month bill	0.03
30-year bond	3.25

WEATHER OUTLOOK



Friday's US temperatures

City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	City	Hi	Lo	Wthr	City	Hi	Lo	Wthr
Albany, N.Y.	74	50	Cir	Chattanooga	88	63	PCldy	Fort Wayne	78	47	Cir	Louisville	83	61	PCldy	Pocatello	85	55	Cir
Albuquerque	90	66	PCldy	Cincinnati	78	53	Cir	Fresno	96	68	Cir	Lubbock	96	68	Cldy	Portland, Maine	72	56	Cir
Allentown, Pa.	93	66	PCldy	Chicago	81	57	PCldy	Goodland	93	64	PCldy	Madison	82	52	Cir	Portland, Ore.	80	60	Cir
Amarillo	93	66	PCldy	Cleveland	73	52	Cir	Grand Junction	78	53	Cir	Madison	82	52	Cir	Providence	76	60	Cir
Anchorage	64	55	Cldy	Colorado Springs	86	58	PCldy	Grand Rapids	77	50	PCldy	Medford	91	60	Cir	Pueblo	92	62	Cir
Asheville	80	58	PCldy	Columbia, S.C.	91	67	Cir	Green Bay	81	50	PCldy	Miami Beach	91	60	Cir	Raleigh	85	59	Cir
Atlanta	88	65	Cldy	Columbus, Ga.	92	69	Cir	Greensboro, N.C.	84	60	Cir	Midland-Odessa	98	72	Cir	Reno	87	57	Cir
Atlantic City	81	58	Cir	Concord, N.H.	72	51	Cir	Hartford	77	54	PCldy	Mpls-St. Paul	85	65	Cldy	Roanoke	81	56	Cir
Austin	88	65	PCldy	Corpus Christi	97	78	PCldy	Helena	87	58	Cldy	Missoula	82	53	Rain	Rochester	70	53	Cldy
Baltimore	80	54	Cir	Dallas-Ft. Worth	96	73	PCldy	Honolulu	99	75	PCldy	Mobile	95	68	PCldy	Rockford	82	57	Cir
Baton Rouge	93	70	PCldy	Dayton	75	48	Cir	Houston	96	75	Cldy	Montgomery	94	65	Cir	Sacramento	89	60	Cir
Biloxi	90	62	Cldy	Daytona Beach	91	76	Rain	Huntsville	90	61	Cir	Nashville	89	63	Cir	St. Louis	88	65	PCldy
Birmingham	91	63	Cir	Denver	82	57	Cir	Indianapolis	80	55	Cir	New Orleans	92	75	PCldy	St. Petersburg	84	62	Cir
Bismarck	88	65	Cldy	Des Moines	86	65	Cldy	Jackson, Miss.	92	63	Cir	New York City	77	61	PCldy	St. Thomas	92	80	PCldy
Boise	89	62	PCldy	Detroit	77	51	Cir	Jacksonville	91	74	Rain	Newark	80	61	PCldy	Salem, Ore.	83	57	PCldy
Boston	75	61	PCldy	El Paso	94	74	Cir	Janeau	63	54	Cir	Norfolk	81	56	Cir	Salt Lake City	81	56	Cir
Bridgeport	78	58	PCldy	Elkins	73	45	Cir	Kansas City	86	67	PCldy	North Platte	89	64	Cir	San Angelo	99	69	Cir
Brownsville	96	78	PCldy	Erie	71	54	PCldy	Key West	80	63	PCldy	Oklahoma City	95	68	PCldy	San Antonio	99	76	Cir
Buffalo	71	54	Cldy	Fairbanks	70	56	Cldy	Knoxville	86	62	Cir	Omaha	83	66	Cir	San Francisco	75	60	PCldy
Burlington, Vt.	66	53	Cldy	Fargo	88	66	PCldy	Lake Charles	91	72	PCldy	Orlando	76	76	Rain	San Jose	81	61	PCldy
Caribou, Maine	64	56	Cldy	Flagstaff	76	51	PCldy	Lansing	76	46	Cir	Paduach	88	60	PCldy	St. Marie	72	46	Cir
Charleston, S.C.	92	72	PCldy	Fort Smith	91	67	Cir	Las Vegas	101	80	Cir	Palm Springs	83	59	PCldy	Santa Fe	88	59	PCldy
Charleston, W.Va.	80	51	Cir	Flagstaff	76	51	PCldy	Lexington	81	58	PCldy	Peoria	83	59	PCldy	San Jose	81	61	PCldy
Charlotte, N.C.	86	65	PCldy	Flint	77	43	Cir	Little Rock	89	64	PCldy	Philadelphia	80	61	Cir	Savannah	93	72	PCldy
				Fort Smith	91	67	Cir	Los Angeles	84	65	PCldy	Phoenix	104	85	Cir	Seattle	76	61	Cldy
											Pittsburgh	84	65	PCldy	Shreveport	95	65	Cir	

National temperature extremes
Hi: Wed., 114, Death Valley, Calif.
Lo: Wed., 34, Bodie State Park, Calif.

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GERMANY
Phone: +49-6134-2592730
Toll-free: 0800-CARSHIP (Germany only)
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INDEPENDENT NEWS FOR THE U.S. MILITARY COMMUNITY

Whenever They Fight and Wherever They Live

The first Stars and Stripes was printed during the Civil War, when a band of Union soldiers published a handful of editions.

During World War I, Stars and Stripes reappeared in Paris on February 8, 1918, to serve the doughboys of the American Expeditionary Force (AEF), by order of General of the Armies John J. Pershing. An all-military staff produced it weekly until the war's end.

A second renaissance began on April 18, 1942, when a small group of servicemen began publishing a four-page weekly Stars and Stripes in London. They sold each copy for "tuppence" (about 5 cents) and in no time doubled their page count to eight pages, printing daily instead of weekly.

The first World War II edition of Stars and Stripes featured an interview with Gen. George C. Marshall, Army Chief of Staff. Marshall quoted Gen. Pershing, World War I Commander of the AEF, who described Stars as a major factor in sustaining morale. Stars and Stripes later found a champion and protector in Gen. Dwight D. Eisenhower, Supreme Allied Commander and later president of the United States.

Eisenhower enforced a hands-off policy in regard to Stars and Stripes that continues to the present day.

Operations expanded, following GIs to the battlefield to bring them the news. During the war, Stars and Stripes published over 30

separate editions, running up to 24 pages per issue.

At one time, Stars and Stripes had some 25 printing locations in Europe, North Africa, the Middle East and the Pacific. The Pacific edition was launched a week after VE day (Victory in Europe, May 8, 1945).

The war ended—but Stars and Stripes kept going. Its reporters and photographers continued to join American troops in the field, throughout the Korean and Vietnam conflicts, during the 1990s Operations Desert Shield and Desert Storm, and in Bosnia and Kosovo.

From the 2003 outset of Operation Enduring Freedom, Stars and Stripes was there to report first-hand. The war in Afghanistan continues to receive steady coverage. And during Operation Iraqi Freedom, Stars reporters embedded with military units in Kuwait and Iraq, as well as on Navy ships in the region.

Stars and Stripes today is a multimedia news organization. The majority of Stars and Stripes unique reporting efforts is read now in digital form, either online at stripes.com or via mobile offerings for iPhone, Android and iPad, in over 200 countries around the world.

The print newspaper is still available for servicemembers, government civilians and their families in

Europe, the Middle East and the Pacific—and in contingency areas. Washington, D.C., hosts the Central office, where daily editions are transmitted to printers in Afghanistan, Qatar, Bahrain, Kuwait, and Djibouti, as well as in Germany, Italy, UK, Japan, and South Korea. Stars and Stripes also publishes several weeklies (Stripes Guam, Japan, Korea and Okinawa), designed to serve the

needs of their respective military communities.

A U.S. edition comprised exclusively of Stars and Stripes reports from around the world now serves stateside forces and veterans. The U.S. edition is published in partnership with commercial newspaper publishers who serve communities with large military populations.



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Photography: Fred Zimmerman

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COLLEGE FOOTBALL



ROSS D. FRANKLIN/AP

Each player and coach on Arizona State's football team has a photo above their locker in Tempe, Ariz., of someone who has inspired them. There are mothers, fathers, siblings, grandparents, a few coaches. Coach Todd Graham had them all do it so they can remember it's not just their teammates they're playing for.

Picture this: Photos help Sun Devils bond

By JOHN MARSHALL
The Associated Press

TEMPE, Ariz. — Receiver Eric Lauderdale has a photo of his late parents, his grandmother and sister attached to his locker. Defensive back Damarious Randall has one of his mother. Offensive lineman Jamil Douglas has his mother and sister.

The photos go around the room, on the lockers of Arizona State players and coaches alike. Mothers and fathers, grandparents and siblings, coaches and guardians.

Each one is a reminder, of the people who made sacrifices so they could become Division I football players, that they're not just playing for themselves or their teammates.

"Every morning we wake up at 5 a.m. and there's some mornings where you really don't feel like doing stuff," Randall said. "You can just look at your locker and see how many sacrifices that person made for you, and you want to make sacrifices for that person to honor them."

Football coaches — coaches in any sport, really — are constantly searching for ways to motivate their players, to bring out every last drop of effort from them. Team bonding is a big focus; the tighter the group, the more they'll want to give their best effort and not let each other down.

Arizona State coach Todd Graham has had his hand on the mo-

tivational wheel since arriving in the desert in 2011, bringing with him ideas that he had during previous stops in his coaching career.

Like many coaches, Graham has decorated Arizona State's facilities with inspirational phrases and photos, including pictures of the national championship and Pac-12 trophies. He also had the team return to Camp Tontozona for fall camp as a bonding experience and, since last season, Arizona State's players have entered the field for games through a tunnel that has a life-sized image of Pat Tillman at the end of it.

This year, Graham added decals with an image of the Pac-12 trophy on the backs of the players' helmets and came up with the photo idea, hoping it would provide an extra dose of inspiration.

"I look at it for every day we get dressed, we blow the whistle, we're looking at that picture every day and every day we honor that," Graham said. "If I can get them to care about their teammates and each other one one-hundredth of like they care about that person in that picture, we've got something special."

The photos have allowed different parts of the team to connect instead of staying on their own side of the locker room. Players walk through, see the photos and ask who the person is, what they mean to them.

It's given the players a deeper understanding of who their teammates

Arizona St. lineman reveals he's gay

The Associated Press

TEMPE, Ariz. — Arizona State offensive lineman Edward Sarafin has told a local magazine he is gay, making him the first active Division I football player to come out.

A fifth-year senior, Sarafin told Phoenix-based *Compete*, a magazine for gay sports, that he began telling teammates last spring.

"It was really personal to me, and it benefited my peace of mind greatly," he said in the magazine's August issue.

The walk-on lineman, who goes by the nickname Chip, follows the precedent set by St. Louis Rams linebacker Michael Sam. Sam told teammates he was gay during his playing days, but did not come out publicly until after finishing at Missouri.

New Jersey Nets forward Jason Collins became the first active openly-gay player in one of the four major U.S. professional sports leagues when he came out to *Sports Illustrated* in April 2013. He became the first openly-gay player to play in an NBA game after signing with the Nets last season.

A 6-foot-6, 320-pound lineman from Gilbert,

Ariz., Sarafin graduated with a degree in biomedical engineering last spring and is currently in Arizona State's master's program. He has yet to play in a game, working as a scout-team player early in his career and providing depth on the Sun Devils' offensive line last season.

"We are a brotherhood that is not defined by cultural and personal differences, but rather an individual's commitment to the Sun Devil Way," Arizona State coach Todd Graham said. "Chip is a fifth-year senior and a Scholar Baller, a graduate and a master's student. His commitment to service is unmatched and it is clear he is on his way to leading a successful life after his playing career, a goal that I have for every student-athlete. Diversity and acceptance are two of the pillars of our program, and he has full support from his teammates and the coaching staff."

Sarafin also received Sam's support via Twitter.

"Congratulations Chip Sarafin for having the courage to be yourself. Wishing you and your teammates much success this season. #courage2014," Sam tweeted.

mothers and are where they come from, strengthening their bond.

"You see guys in the locker room all the time asking who's this on your locker, what happened if it is someone who passed away," Douglas said. "I think it brings you closer, brings more conversation to different parts of the team."

Graham told players to put serious thought into who they put up on the lockers. The majority are of

mothers, including Graham's, and fathers. There are relatives, from siblings to uncles, photos of family members who died, coaches who helped along the way, a few girlfriends, one of Jesus.

Lauderdale has four people who helped shape his life.

Two are his parents. His father was shot and killed when Lauderdale was 1 and his mother died of cancer when he was 17.

The other two are the people who helped him through tough times: his grandmother and sister.

Seeing their pictures helps Lauderdale get through each day.

"It's bigger than this (football), really," Lauderdale said. "I do it just to show them that I want to do something with my life. When I get on the field, I do it for them. When I look at the photo, I just try to give it my all."

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Ducks' Loyd makes transition from hoops

By ANNE M. PETERSON
The Associated Press

EUGENE, Ore. — Johnathan Loyd has the basics of being a wide receiver down: He can catch and run, no problem.

It's the mental part that's hard. After four years as a point guard on Oregon's basketball team, Loyd is making the transition to receiver for the Ducks, taking advantage of an NCAA rule that allows a player a fifth year of eligibility — in a different sport.

Loyd is doing this partly for fun, and partly because he's the consummate competitor. He's already gotten his degree in applied economics and is working on another.

"I'd been curious to see if I could play at this level," he said. "I love the University of Oregon, and I love to see the Ducks win. So if I can't do it in basketball anymore, I wanted to try another sport, to see if I could contribute."

Loyd unexpectedly made the jump to football the second week of spring practice. While he played back in high school in Las Vegas, his move was seen as something of a stunt and most figured he wouldn't last.

But the 5-foot-8 guard won many of the naysayers over when he donned pads for the annual Spring Game and had a catch for four yards and saw time as a punt returner on special teams.

"The guy had a great attitude in the spring — but you could tell he hadn't played football for five years," coach Mark Helfrich said. "It's not like he's showing up and playing intramural flag football. He's playing elite-level Division I football. There's rust. There's uncertainty."

Loyd admits it was a weird adjustment.



MORRY GASH/AP

After completing his eligibility with the Oregon basketball team, guard Johnathan Loyd surprised many by trying out for the school's football team.

"When I first started in the spring I was still in basketball mode. I came off the line and wasn't going as hard as I could, trying to find my way. That kind of hurt me, I think," he said. "But I'm out of that now."

Loyd thinks he has a place on the offense and on special teams for the Ducks, who went 11-2 last season and have been picked to finish atop the Pac-12 North and win the league championship game.

"I've got a lot of confidence in myself," he said. "I don't know how I'll be used, I'm just trying to be the best I can be and go as hard as I can."

Loyd was the starting point guard for the Ducks basketball team that went 24-10 and advanced to the NCAA tournament for the second straight year. Oregon's season ended with a third-round tournament loss to Wisconsin.

Loyd averaged seven points and 4.7 assists per game his senior year. The first player recruited by coach Dana Altman, he played in a school-record 144 career games and 97 Oregon wins.

Football is a whole different mindset.

"I've got nothing but respect for these guys," he said. "A lot of people can say this or that when they're sitting in the stands, but they have no idea what it's really like."

Loyd's good friend Keanon Lowe is expected to be Oregon's top receiver now that Josh Huff has moved on. The Ducks were hit this spring with the loss of Bralon Addison, the top returner with 61 catches for 890 yards and seven touchdowns, because of a torn ACL. But Addison is hoping to return later this season.

Another receiver in the mix is speedy redshirt freshman Devon Allen. After recovering from injuries he sustained during fall camp last year, Allen joined the Ducks track team and won the 110-meter hurdles title at the NCAA track and field championships in 13.16, a meet record and the second-best collegiate time ever.

So far, Helfrich likes what he's seeing from Loyd.

"Great, positive attitude out there," Helfrich said. "He's a guy you can see everybody likes to be around and work with."

Loyd laughed at the suggestion that in addition to football he could also still run track — following the lead of some of the other Ducks, including Allen.

"That's a whole different level of speed," he said.



JOE RAYMOND/AP

Notre Dame coach Brian Kelly, right, talks with quarterback Everett Golson during practice in South Bend, Ind., last week. Golson has reclaimed the job as Notre Dame's starter after being suspended last semester for academic impropriety.

Golson back as ND starter

By TOM COYNE
The Associated Press

SOUTH BEND, Ind. — Everett Golson is Notre Dame's starting quarterback again.

The senior has reclaimed the post he held while leading the Fighting Irish to the national championship game two years ago, and before being suspended last season for academic impropriety.

The move was widely expected even though coach Brian Kelly said repeatedly that sophomore Malik Zaire was competing for the job. Kelly said Wednesday that Golson won the position because of his overall understanding of the offense, how he's handled himself with the team and his leadership.

"He's put himself in that position to get that opportunity to be our starter against Rice," Kelly said. "There was competition and there will be competition. Everett's the starter for Rice and we hope he's the starter for the entire year. But we're all in this merit-based situation. We've got to win."

The Irish did that with Golson in 2012, posting their first undefeated regular season since winning the national championship in 1988 and being ranked No.

1 for the first time in 19 years. But defense, not offense, was the impetus behind that team. Kelly even spoke of that two weeks ago when he said "I would argue that Everett rode the bus to the championship."

With a young, inexperienced defense, Kelly has said the Irish need to put up more points this season. He's hoping Golson's running ability will help the Irish to do that, something they were missing last season with Tommy Rees at quarterback. Kelly said the Irish won't have to switch plays as often along the line of scrimmage with Golson at quarterback.

"Tommy needed to check a lot of plays. We won't have to block that end of Everett on every play. We had to for Tommy. He wasn't going to make the end miss," Kelly said.

Golson said he didn't feel a sense of relief when Kelly gave him the news.

"I think it's a heightened responsibility on my part now that everything is pretty set. It's my job to get these guys right and just try to lead this team," he said.

Golson was 187 of 318 passing in 2012, a 58.8 completion rate, with 12 touchdown passes and six interceptions. He had a pass ef-

iciency rating of 131.01, placing him 62nd among quarterbacks nationwide. He also ran for 298 yards on 94 carries.

Golson said he struggled a bit in the spring with a new quarterbacks coach and facing a Notre Dame defense that is playing a more aggressive style. He said it all started coming together after spring practice was over.

"I think now I'm in a position to hold everyone else responsible because I'm comfortable with what I'm supposed to do," he said.

He said he has been focusing on trying to take control of the offense, which he struggled with at times in 2012. He was replaced by Rees for the final game-winning drive against Purdue in the second game and was pulled for poor play two weeks later against Michigan. But his play improved steadily as the season wore on.

The Irish finished that season ranked 71st in the nation in passing in 223 yards a game, their lowest ranking since finishing 110th at 167 yards a game in 2007, when Notre Dame finished 3-9.

Golson said he is better prepared this time.

"I understand the job and the task at hand and what I have to do next," he said.

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COLLEGE FOOTBALL

On their worst behavior

Social media costs several recruits their scholarships

By RALPH D. RUSSO
The Associated Press

At St. Paul's Episcopal School in Mobile, Alabama, the high school that produced Crimson Tide quarterbacks AJ McCarron and Jake Coker, there's a new preseason ritual for football players: the social media talk.

It's about more than minding their manners. Coach Steve Mask warns players not to post about injuries, which can scare away recruiters. Committing on Twitter to a school is also discouraged — one recent former player tweeted commitments to four different schools without informing any coaches.

"He came across as being not reliable," Mask said. "He gets a little joy out of the attention, but it's not worth it."

This season, Mask is taking his players' online personas so seriously that he's assigning an assistant to monitor their accounts. As college programs increasingly use Twitter, Instagram and other social media accounts to evaluate a player's character, one wrong comment can cost a scholarship offer.

That was the case recently at Penn State for offensive line coach Herb Hand, who took to Twitter recently to vent his frustration with a recruit gone bad online.

"Dropped another prospect this AM due to his social media presence ... Actually glad I got to see the 'real' person before we offered him," Hand tweeted.

At Penn State media day last week in State College, P., Hand said that his wife scolded him for the tone of the tweet. Cruel, maybe, but fair.

"You want to recruit guys with strong character," he said. "Somebody messaged me, 'Sometimes kids are worried more about being a character than having character.'"

Yes, teens do tweet the darndest things, but Hand and other coaches say it's usually fairly easy to differentiate between a cringe-inducing post and one that raises a serious red flag on a prospect.

"There's a difference though when you're talking about information that may be degrading to women, referencing drug use, and anything that has to do with cyberbullying and stuff like that. There's certain things you don't want to be part of your program," Hand said.

Hand, who is one of the most active and engaging college coaches you'll find on Twitter, is not alone in cutting off a recruit because of the player's use of social media.

"It's happened this year and this recruiting class," Duke coach David Cutcliffe said. "It's just insane what some of them think's OK. When I know it's them and I read it and I see some of the things out there, if I'm on the road, I'll call a coach



GERRY BROOME/AP

Duke coach David Cutcliffe is among a growing number of college coaches who are watching the social media behavior of potential student athletes. The wrong tweet or Facebook comment could cause a coach to rescind a scholarship offer.



JOE HERMITT, PENNLIVE.COM/AP

Penn State offensive line coach Herb Hand took to Twitter recently to vent his frustration. "Dropped another prospect this AM due to his social media presence ... Actually glad I got to see the 'real' person before we offered him," Hand tweeted.

— let his high school coach know we're no longer interested. And I'll call back to (Duke director of football relations) Kent McLeod or the people in the office and say I want him dropped off the database. No more mail. Nothing."

NCAA rules regarding contact between recruits and football coaches have become more restrictive in recent years. Coaches can't text recruits and opportunities to meet face-to-face have decreased. As social media has become more ubiquitous, it has helped coaches fill the information gap in recruiting.

Arkansas coach Bret Bielema said social media is now part of his standard checklist for recruits.

"He's got to have a GPA that I can relate to, an ACT or SAT score or a pre-ACT score, and the third box is for social media," Bielema.

"I distinctly remember a player last year who signed, was a big-time kid, had an interest in us, and his Twitter handle was something that I can't repeat in here. I just kind of said, what are we doing here? This is about as obvious as it gets about what kind of thing we're dealing with here, so

'You want to recruit guys with strong character. Somebody messaged me, 'Sometimes kids are worried more about being a character than having character.''



Herb Hand

Penn State offensive line coach

we backed out altogether."

Hand said he tries to educate high school coaches who might be behind the curve in online communication. And he often tries to educate players he's recruiting.

South Carolina freshman defensive back Chris Lammons said he got the message in high school and cleaned up his Twitter act, despite what his friends were doing.

"In the transition from being a little kid to a man, that's the thing you have to do, because when you're growing up, you probably want to get a big-time job somewhere and they look back at your Twitter account and they see the things you're putting out," Lammons said.

AP sports writers Kurt Voigt in Fayetteville, Ark.; Joedy McCreary in Durham, N.C.; and Pete Iacobelli in Columbia, S.C., contributed to this report.

MLB



PATRICK SEMANSKY/AP

The Orioles' Chris Davis, left, greets teammate Adam Jones at home plate after Davis and Nick Markakis scored on Jones' home run in the eighth inning Wednesday against the New York Yankees in Baltimore. The Orioles won 3-2.

O's use HRs to rally past Yankees

By DAVID GINSBURG
The Associated Press

BALTIMORE — Limited to three hits over seven innings, the Baltimore Orioles turned to their reliable, standard weapon — the home run — to pull out a comeback victory over the New York Yankees.

Jonathan Schoop and Adam Jones connected in a four-run eighth inning, and Baltimore completed a two-game sweep of the rain-shortened series with a 5-3 win Wednesday night.

The Orioles lead the majors with 152 home runs, are 35-10 when hitting more than one and 58-25 when going deep at least once.

After Schoop tied it with a drive off Delin Betances, Shawn Kelley (2-4) gave up a single and a walk before Jones hit a shot into the bullpen area beyond the center-field wall.

"When we're down by one we always feel we're just one pitch away," Jones said. "So

that happened, and once we tie the game all the marbles are up. First one to score one wins."

Jones made it happen. As the ball dropped over the fence for his 23rd home run, he raised his right arm in triumph as he rounded first base.

"Big spot, big home run," Jones said. "Nothing wrong with showing a little emotion here and there."

Darren O'Day (4-1) worked the eighth and Zach Britton gave up a run in the ninth en route to his 25th save.

It was the eighth straight series win for the AL East-leading Orioles, who increased their margin over the fading third-place Yankees to eight games. Baltimore is 8-3 against New York this season, outscoring the Yankees 60-31.

"It's tough right now because they are hitting very good," New York's Francisco Cervelli said. "They've got a couple of hitters who are really hot right now."

Yankees manager Joe Girardi missed the finish after being ejected in the seventh inning by home plate umpire Gerry Davis. Girardi was furious after Davis called New York's Stephen Drew out for running in the baseline on his way to first base.

Girardi's second ejection of the year came with New York ahead 2-1 on the strength of Cervelli's second home run of the year, a two-run drive in the third inning off Chris Tillman.

The lead didn't stand up, and now the Yankees are stuck in a four-game skid and scrambling to stay in the playoff hunt.

"We've got to start winning series again," Girardi said. "We have not won the last two series and we put ourselves in a little bit of a hole."

Making his first appearance in the big leagues since April 23, New York starter Michael Pineda retired the first 12 batters he faced before Nelson Cruz doubled to open the fifth.

Vargas, KC shut down Oakland

By DAVE SKRETTA
The Associated Press

KANSAS CITY, Mo. — The crowd roared as Jason Vargas emerged from the dugout for the ninth inning, the Kansas City Royals trying to hold onto a 3-0 lead over the Oakland Athletics in a matchup of playoff hopefuls.

Five pitches later, the crowd roared even louder.

Vargas finished off his three-hitter with a flourish, breezing through the A's for his sixth career shutout. It was the second shutout by Kansas City starters in the past week and the third complete game over that stretch, a big reason why the Royals are leading the AL Central.

"That's what we want to do if we want to keep playing," said Vargas, who was making just his third start since going on the disabled list for an emergency appendectomy.

Vargas (9-5) retired the final 23 batters he faced, helping the Royals bounce back from having an eight-game winning streak snapped. They maintained their half-game lead over Detroit.

"If it's the first pitch or sixth pitch, you've got to be ready for contact for a pitch to show up in your area," said Josh Donaldson, who had one of the A's three hits. "He did a good job of keeping us off balance all night."

Omar Infante hit a two-run homer and Salvador Perez drove in the other run off Scott Kazmir (13-5), who lost to Kansas City for the second time in 10 days.

Vargas allowed four runs over 4½ innings against Oakland in his first start off the disabled list, and two runs over five innings against San Francisco's last time out. But on a mild evening at the K, he looked like the dominant left-hander of earlier this season.

Mixing his pitches and catching the corners, Vargas wiggled out of a jam in the first inning and gave up a single leading off the second before muzzling Oakland.

Vargas needed only 92 pitches over eight innings, so manager Ned Yost sent him out for the ninth rather than turn it over to closer Greg Holland. Five pitches later, he had his first shutout since last September, when he beat Oakland 3-0 with the Angels.

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DERIK HAMILTON/AP

AJ Allmendinger earned a spot in the 10-race Chase for the Championship with a victory at Watkins Glen International last week. It was just his fifth top-5 finish of the season for JTG Daugherty Racing.

A chance to shine

Allmendinger gives single-car JTG Daugherty exposure, Chase spot

By JOHN KEKIS
The Associated Press

WATKINS GLEN, N.Y. — When a beaming Brad Daugherty sat down to address the media at Watkins Glen International after AJ Allmendinger had given JTG Daugherty Racing its first Sprint Cup triumph, the former NBA star couldn't curb his enthusiasm.

"We're coming for you Jimmie!" Daugherty belted out, gleeful about being able to challenge six-time champion Jimmie Johnson for the season title.

Yep, an underfunded single-car team with around 40 employees has made NASCAR's coveted 10-race Chase for the championship, and it's not just happy to be there.

"We've got a shot," said Allmendinger, whose first Cup win came in his 213th start. "It's huge to be in the Chase. This doesn't automatically make us a championship contender. We're still a small team. We're still building. To get that exposure by saying we're a Chase team is big for us because of our sponsors. It gives them more exposure, and that's what it's all about."

After Allmendinger took the checkered flag, Daugherty, who worked the race as a television analyst, began jumping up and down, grinning as he hugged fellow analyst Rusty Wallace. He then departed to Victory Lane and hoisted Allmendinger off the ground as a wild celebration got underway.

Allmendinger's life changed two years ago in the hours before the July race at Daytona International Speedway. NASCAR officials had just kicked him out of the track, suspending Allmendinger indefinitely for failing a random drug test.

The failed drug test sidelined him for more than three months and cost him his job with Penske Racing. It also spurred much soul searching, and after a handful of one-off Cup rides he landed a full-time

Cup ride last August with JTG Daugherty Racing. That Penske was among those to congratulate Allmendinger in Victory Lane spoke volumes.

"I knew he was the right guy for this team," said Tad Geschickter, a co-owner of the team with wife Jodi. "We try and run it like a family, and he was looking for a home."

Allmendinger's victory was timely. It came just two days after the team announced that Kimberly Clark had extended its sponsorship through the 2017 Sprint Cup season with their SCOTT, Viva, Kleenex, Cottonelle, and Huggies brands. Kimberly Clark has been with the team for five years.

"The significance of this win goes without saying how big and how important it is to this race team," said Allmendinger, who told his parents to make the trip because he felt good about his chances. "You know, to be able to share it with Tad and Jodi and Brad and everybody at this whole No. 47 race team, they make this team feel like such a family, like we're their own. To be able to share that together, that was what to me rolling into Victory Lane meant, that I was pulling into Victory Lane with my family."

In the broadcast booth, Daugherty was hesitant to pick his driver during the telecast because of the team's three-stop pit strategy. But when a handful of cautions fell in the final third of the 90-lap race, crew chief Brian Burns looked like a genius.

Still, Allmendinger had to prove his mettle by out-driving Australian road race ace Marcos Ambrose in a fender-bending, door-slammng finish over the final laps in a desperate attempt by both drivers to make the Chase.

"He won the race today in a fashion that everyone is proud of him for doing, to beat one of the best in the world at driving these stock cars," said third-place finisher Kurt Busch, who was poised to take the victory if the two front-runners took each other out. "He deserves the trophy, and he had to pull from within. He had to dig in deep, and he had to believe in himself all the way through this."

"He's put himself through all those mental challenges, and today he persevered," Busch said. "He didn't break down and he brought home a victory, so we're all very proud of him."

It was just the fifth top-5 finish of the year for Allmendinger and the No. 47 Chevrolet but a step in the right direction with NASCAR's version of a regular season winding down. Only four races remain until the Chase begins.

"I think we have more in us. I think we've got a chance," Daugherty said. "If the dominoes fall correctly, we've got a chance. So we've got to put our eggs in one basket. We don't want to just be there as a back-marker. We want to make some noise."

Added Allmendinger: "You never know. We may go and shock the world and have a shot when it comes down to Homestead-Miami Speedway. You never know."

Around the tracks

SPRINT CUP

This week: Pure Michigan 400 at Brooklyn, Mich.

TV: AFN-Xtra, 7 p.m. Sunday Central European Time, 2 a.m. Monday Japan and Korea Time.

Track: Michigan International Speedway (oval, 2.0 miles).

Race distance: 400 miles, 200 laps.

Last year: AJ Allmendinger won on the road course at Watkins Glen for his first career Sprint Cup victory. He drives for JTG Daugherty Racing.

Last week: Joey Logano won on fuel mileage at Watkins Glen. Kevin Harvick was second.

Next race: Irwin Tools Night Race, Aug. 23, Bristol Motor Speedway, Bristol, Tenn.

Online: nascar.com

DRIVER STANDINGS

1. Dale Earnhardt Jr.	773
2. Jeff Gordon	768
3. Matt Kenseth	703
4. Brad Keselowski	696
5. Joey Logano	671
6. Carl Edwards	658
7. Jimmie Johnson	650
8. Kevin Harvick	645
9. Ryan Newman	645
10. Kyle Larson	635
11. Clint Bowyer	634
12. Greg Biffle	626
13. Casey Mears	622
14. Austin Dillon	616
15. Kyle Busch	615
16. Marcos Ambrose	584
17. Paul Menard	574
18. Brian Vickers	573
19. Jamie McMurray	566
20. Denny Hamlin	552

DRIVER TO WATCH



While no one approaches David Pearson's nine victories and 10 poles at Michigan International Speedway, **Greg Biffle** comes the closest with four victories, 10 top-finishes and 14 top-10 finishes.

He has an average finish of 11.6 at the track and a series-best average running position of 8.9. His driver rating of 107.8 at the track is also a series best.

Biffle is ranked 12th in the standings and has yet to win this year. His best finish this season was second at Talladega on May 4 and needs to get a victory to solidify his spot in the Chase for the championship.

NATIONWIDE SERIES

This week: Nationwide Children's Hospital 200 at Lexington, Ohio.

TV: AFN-Xtra, 8:45 p.m. Saturday CET; 3:45 a.m. Sunday JKT.

Track: Mid-Ohio Sports Car Course (road course, 2.258 miles).

Race distance: 203.22 miles, 90 laps.

Last year: AJ Allmendinger raced to his second road-course victory of the season.

Last week: Marcos Ambrose won at Watkins Glen.

Next race: Food City 300, Aug. 22, Bristol Motor Speedway, Bristol, Tenn.

Online: nascar.com

VERIZON INDYCAR

This week: ABC Supply Wisconsin 250 at West Allis, Wis.

TV: Delayed, AFN-Xtra, 6 a.m. Monday CET; 1 p.m. Monday JKT.

Track: Milwaukee Mile (oval, 1.0 mile).

Race distance: 250 miles, 250 laps.

Last year: Andretti Autosport's Ryan Hunter-Reay won at the track for the second year in a row.

TV: Race: Target Chip Ganassi's Scott Dixon won at Mid-Ohio on Aug. 3.

Next race: Grand Prix of Sonoma, Sonoma Raceway, Aug. 24, Sonoma, Calif.

Online: indycar.com

NHRA MELLO YELLO DRAG RACING

This week: Lucas Oil Nationals at Brainerd, Minn.

TV: AFN-Xtra, 3 a.m. Monday CET; 10 a.m. Monday JKT.

Track: Brainerd International Raceway.

Last year: Ron Capps won Funny Car, Spencer Massey won in Top Fuel, and Mike Edwards topped Pro Stock.

Last event: John Force won the Northwest Nationals in Kent, Wash. Doug Kalitta won in Top Fuel, and Jason Line in Pro Stock.

Next event: U.S. Nationals, Aug. 27-Sept. 1, Lucas Oil Raceway at Indianapolis, Clermont, Ind.

Online: nhra.com



MEL EVANS/AP

Just two years ago, AJ Allmendinger was fired by Penske Racing after failing a drug test, but Roger Penske was in Victory Lane on Sunday to congratulate his former driver at Watkins Glen.

STARS AND STRIPES

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GOLF/NBA



JEFF ROBERSON/AP

Tiger Woods winces after his tee shot on the sixth hole during last Friday's second round of the PGA Championship at Valhalla Golf Club in Louisville, Ky. Woods removed himself from consideration for the Ryder Cup team Wednesday with a clear message that he is not healthy enough to play.

Woods takes himself out of Ryder Cup consideration

The Associated Press

Tiger Woods removed himself from consideration for the Ryder Cup team Wednesday evening with a clear message that he is not healthy enough to play.

One day after U.S. captain Tom Watson said he trusted Woods to give him the "straight skinny" on the condition of his back injury and his game, Woods said he called the 64-year-old captain to say he would not be available.

The decision spares Watson from having to leave Woods off the team, and it eliminates a distraction over the next three weeks before Watson announces his three captain's picks for the Sept. 26-28 matches against Europe at Gleneagles.

"I've been told by my doctors and trainer that my back muscles need to be rehabilitated and healed."

Tiger Woods

website. "The U.S. team and the Ryder Cup mean too much to me not to be able to give it my best."

That he was even under consideration was mildly surprising.

Woods' best finish this year was a tie for 25th because of nagging back issues at the start of the year that led him to have surgery on March 31. He missed two majors, including the Masters for the first time, and did not return for three months. In the four events he played upon his return, he missed the cut twice, withdrew during the final round at Firestone and finished 69th in the British Open for his worst 72-hole result in a major.

"My primary wish is for Tiger to be healthy and competitive, and I hope that he'll return to the game very soon," Watson said in a statement released by the PGA of America. "Of course, I'm disappointed that Tiger Woods has asked not to be considered for the U.S. Ryder Cup team, and that his health is not where he would like it to be. However, I think we can all agree that we need Tiger Woods in this great sport, and he has taken the high road by informing me early on in the selection process."

"My focus will remain on identifying three players to join the U.S. team and give us the best chance for success at Gleneagles."

Woods said his recent back trouble was not related

to the impinged nerve that led to surgery.

He missed the cut by five shots at Valhalla, and he grimaced for the final three hours of the second round at the PGA Championship.

"I've been told by my doctors and trainer that my back muscles need to be rehabilitated and healed," Woods said. "They've advised me not to play or practice now. I was fortunate that my recent back injury was not related to my surgery and was muscular only."

Woods said he would not return until his World Challenge in Orlando, Fla., the first week of December.

That would mean he doesn't play the Frys.com Open or an exhibition in Argentina with Matt Kuchar scheduled for October. Woods was considering the Frys.com Open, a requirement for eight players who competed in an exhibition in Turkey two years ago.

Watson and Woods have never been close, and they only talked about his Ryder Cup situation for the first time a few weeks ago. Even so, Watson said all summer that he wanted Woods on the team provided he was healthy and playing well.

And while Woods was injured and not playing at all, Watson remained interested.

"I don't make this comment loosely. He is Tiger Woods and he brings a lot to the team—if he has the ability to play and he's healthy," Watson said Monday. "He brings a lot to the team. And I'd be a fool not to consider him."

Watson already has lost Dustin Johnson, who went 3-0 at Medinah in the last Ryder Cup, because he has taken an "voluntary leave" to face "personal challenges." Jason Dufner, who went 3-1 in his Ryder Cup debut two years ago, has a neck injury and is out indefinitely. Dufner fell out of the top nine who automatically qualified.

Watson already has three rookies on his team—Jordan Spieth, Jimmy Walker and Patrick Reed—facing a European team that features Rory McIlroy and three other players from the top five in the world.

American players have three weeks to audition for Watson before he announces his picks Sept. 2 in New York.

This will be only the second Ryder Cup that Woods does not play. He missed the 2008 Ryder Cup at Valhalla while sitting out the second half of the season following reconstructive knee surgery. That was the last time the Americans won the Ryder Cup.

LeBron to spend Christmas in Miami

By BRIAN MAHONEY
The Associated Press

NEW YORK — LeBron James will play his first game since rejoining the Cleveland Cavaliers at home Oct. 30 against New York, then return to Miami for the first time on Christmas.

The NBA regular season will open Oct. 28, with the NBA champion San Antonio Spurs hosting the Dallas Mavericks in one of the three games that night.

The league released its schedule, featuring a lengthened All-Star break, on Wednesday night during an NBA TV special, with James' return to his original NBA team putting the Cavaliers in a number of prime positions.

That includes the game at Miami in the third spot on the five-game Christmas schedule, traditionally a highlight of the NBA season. James led the Heat to two championships and four NBA Finals appearances in four years before deciding to return to his native Ohio.

The other Christmas day games are: Washington at New York; Oklahoma City at San Antonio in a rematch of the Western Conference finals; the Los Angeles Lakers at Chicago; and Golden State at the Los Angeles Clippers.

The nightcap is a rematch of a tasty Christmas night matchup from last season that featured multiple ejections. The Clippers then went on to beat the Warriors in seven games in the first round of the playoffs.

The last game before the All-Star break in New York is Feb. 12, when the Cavaliers visit the Bulls. The regular season doesn't resume until the following Thursday, two days later than usual, with a doubleheader on TNT.

The three-game opening night closes with Houston visiting the Lakers, which should feature Kobe Bryant's return from an injury-shortened 2013-14 season. Derrick Rose's first regular-season action since season-ending knee surgery early last season should come the next night, when Chicago visits the Knicks on the first full night of action.

Other items of note:

■ A 12-game Martin Luther King Jr. Day, four televised nationally, is highlighted by another Cleveland-Chicago matchup.

■ The NBA Finals rematch between the Spurs and Heat are scheduled for Feb. 6 in San Antonio and March 31 in Miami.

■ If a Kevin Love trade to Cleveland is completed, his return to Minnesota would be Jan. 31.

■ James' first game in San Antonio since his final one in a Miami uniform is March 12.

■ Pau Gasol heads back to Los Angeles for the first time since leaving the Lakers for Chicago on Jan. 29.

■ Jason Kidd's first visit to Brooklyn since leaving the Nets to coach Milwaukee is Nov. 19.

■ International games scheduled for Mexico City (Houston-Minnesota on Nov. 12) and London (New York-Milwaukee on Jan. 15).

■ TNT will televise 53 regular-season games, including an opening night doubleheader and 19 Thursday night doubleheaders, along with the Feb. 13-15 All-Star festivities.

■ ESPN has 75 games in the regular season and ABC will show 15. NBA TV will televise 97 games.

The regular season ends April 15.



TONY DEAR/AP

LeBron James will play his first game since rejoining the Cavaliers in Cleveland against the New York Knicks on Oct. 30. The NBA schedule announced Wednesday also has James heading back to Miami, where he played four years, for one of the five NBA games on Christmas day.

NFL



FRANK FRANKLIN II/AP

New York strong safety Antrel Rolle, bottom, upends Pittsburgh tight end Heath Miller during Saturday's preseason game.

Peppers adjusting to new defense

The Associated Press

GREEN BAY, Wis. — Julius Peppers isn't worried, and he doesn't think Green Bay Packers fans should be concerned, either.

Peppers, the Packers' prized offseason acquisition, understands why some fans might have some reservations about him. He's 34 years old. He's entering his 13th NFL season. He's a rarity for the draft-and-develop Packers — a big-name free-agent signee.

And although he appears to still be in tip-top physical condition, even Peppers acknowledges that it's reasonable to wonder just how much he has left.

"You know, I guess it's something that you expect," Peppers said. "There's not a lot of 34-year-old defensive ends playing in the league, so I guess it's a fair question."

Peppers' performance in the team's preseason opener at Tennessee last week didn't do much to answer that question.

He played 10 snaps and admitted he was a non-factor. He was also out of position on Shonn Greene's first-quarter touchdown run, as Greene went right through the area Peppers vacated when he rushed upfield.

"I didn't get much done," Peppers said. "But it's a start. It's a start. We'll play a little bit more this week and see if we can get a little better this week."

'We'll play a little bit more this week and see if we can get a little better this week.'

Julius Peppers
Packers LB

But Peppers cautioned, he shouldn't be judged on what he'll do this season based on one rain-soaked game that doesn't count.

"We'll see about that," he said. "I'm not really going to get into too much discussing what I can and can't do. I'm going to let the film speak for it."

As with other aging pass rushers who switched teams — DeMarcus Ware, who went from Dallas to Denver, and Jared Allen, who went from Minnesota to Chicago, it's reasonable to wonder just how productive Peppers will be with his new team.

He had 7½ sacks last season for the Bears while playing 855 snaps, and the Packers believe less will be more for him: Fewer snaps, more production.

The feeling in the locker room since Peppers' signing in March — from Aaron Rodgers to Clay Matthews and down the line — has been one of excitement.

While transitioning to playing outside linebacker in a 3-4 scheme for the first time in his career has been a challenge, the coaches still believe that rushing the passer doesn't change despite the defensive alignment.

"Julius is doing good. We've asked a lot of him. We haven't just lined him up in one spot," Packers coach Mike McCarthy said. "He's picked it up quickly, he's getting more and more comfortable, particularly whom he's playing next to and things like that. I think he's having a solid camp."

Thinking outside the box

Giants' Rolle happy to shed nickel back duties and instead play safety full-time

By TOM CANAVAN
The Associated Press

COMING off his best season, New York Giants safety Antrel Rolle has reason to smile.

Not only have the Giants restocked the secondary in the offseason, they finally have enough cornerbacks to allow Rolle to stay at safety in passing situations instead of switching to the nickel back.

It was a position that he has disliked since joining the Giants in 2010, but one he played every week to help the team.

With the free-agent signings of Dominique Rodgers-Cromartie, Walter Thurmond III and Zack Bowman and the return of Prince Amukamara, Jayron Hosley and Trumaine McBride, defensive coordinator Perry Fewell has the depth and talent to keep Rolle in his natural position.

For now, Thurmond is the nickel back. "Yeah that's great," Rolle said Wednesday as the Giants (2-0) continued preparations for Saturday's preseason game in Indianapolis against the Colts.

"Having Walter here is a huge plus and a huge asset for our defense. He's a phenomenal player. Not just nickel back, but a player. You talk about special teams, you talk about just being a corner on the boundary and being a slot-nickel. He can do it all."

Rolle did it all last season for the Giants. The 31-year-old led the team with 98 tackles and six

interceptions, both career highs. It earned him his third Pro Bowl appearance.

As a full-time safety, Fewell said there is no telling how good Rolle can be this season.

"That's up to Antrel," Fewell said. "We're giving him all the reps back there, he uses the term, 'I'm getting my eyes back.' So he can now see the field instead of seeing down in the box and the perimeter. Now he sees the entire field. I think that's important for him to develop that to become as good as he can be as a safety."

This is also going to be a season where Rolle emerges as the undisputed leader of the defense.

For the past couple of years, he and defensive end Justin Tucker shared the role. Tucker signed with Oakland as a free agent in the offseason and now it's fair to say Rolle is in charge.

Linebacker Jon Beason might have shared that role, but he injured a foot in the offseason and has been on the physically unable to perform list.

So Rolle is the spokesman for the defense, which has allowed one touchdown in two preseason games.

"I'm very pleased with what I've seen thus far," Rolle said. "Obviously, there's a lot of areas to clean up and fine-tune. Cut down on a lot of the penalties, especially in the defensive backfield, and eliminating a lot of the big plays: big play run and big play pass."

"Overall, I think we've been doing a great job in keeping a team out of the end zone, which is always our number one priority as a defense. So far, so good."

By the numbers

98

Best season total of tackles turned in by Giants defensive back Antrel Rolle, who set the mark last year.

713

Career tackles by Rolle during his nine years in the NFL, with the Cardinals and Giants, 605 of which were solo tackles.

6

Best season total of interceptions by Rolle, set last year, his fourth with the Giants. None were returned for touchdowns.

SOURCE: sports.yahoo.com

NFL

Uphill: Some come back successfully, while others just aren't the same



Will Vragovic, Tampa Bay Times/MCT

After playing just five games with the Green Bay Packers in 2008, linebacker Danny Lansanah played in the United Football League and worked helping troubled teens. He ended up with the Tampa Bay Buccaneers for one game last season, and is listed as a backup this year.

WR looking to move from booth back to field

By TERESA M. WALKER
The Associated Press

NASHVILLE, Tenn. — Derek Hagan sat around last season hoping for a call from an NFL team. His phone never rang.

This offseason, the receiver only heard from one team and not until mid-June. Now he is in training camp with the Tennessee Titans hoping to earn a roster spot that keeps him in the league for his eighth season.

"Obviously being out two years is really not a good look for me," Hagan said. "I was already branching off doing other things. Now I'm here, and I'm glad I stayed in shape and stayed into the game. I'm happy and I'm thankful and I'm here."

He was in training camp this time last year with Tampa Bay only to be released in late August. He returned home to Southern California where he worked out all fall, staying in shape just in case a team called. But he also started working as an analyst for a Fox Sports Radio show in case his career indeed was over.

"It was one of those things that was difficult just because I'd been playing for so long," Hagan said. "I just started thinking about, 'OK, what am I going to do if I don't play next year?'"

Hagan, a third-round draft pick by Miami out of Arizona State in 2006, kept working



MARK HUMPHREY/AP

Derek Hagan wasn't called by any teams last season, so he went to work for Fox Sports Radio. This year, Hagan is trying to win a spot with the Tennessee Titans.

out in case some team called needing a receiver in a hurry. He finally took a break in November but returned to his usual offseason workout in February.

By the time the Titans called Hagan, they only had a three-day minicamp left in their offseason program. Hagan came in, got an iPad loaded with the playbook and started learning the offense. That proved fairly

easy for a veteran with 129 catches for 1,480 yards and six touchdowns with Miami, the Giants, Oakland and Buffalo.

"I had that whole month off to learn the playbook," Hagan said. "I learned it, and now it's pretty easy. Once they call a play, I know where I'm going and I don't have to think about it too much."

Hagan has looked good in training camp. The Titans have Kendall Wright, Justin Hunter and Nate Washington as their top three receivers with Hagan competing against Marc Mariani, Michael Preston and Brian Robiskie for either two or three spots depending on how many receivers the team keeps.

At 6-foot-2 and 210 pounds, Hagan also brings some size with his experience.

Sitting out a season can be tougher on a receiver because of how much running is required. Titans coach Ken Whisenhunt says Hagan is in good shape and has worked hard in training camp.

"He's really been impressive," Whisenhunt said. "I wasn't sure what to expect from that standpoint, but he's learned very well and we've been able to move him in different spots and he's made a lot of plays. So it's an impressive camp so far for him."

Hagan is just working as hard as he can.

"I'm very thankful to have another chance," Hagan said.

FROM BACK PAGE

Meanwhile, his older brother Hamza — who had been a backup defensive back in Arizona — never received another opportunity to catch on with a team.

"The biggest thing is putting in the work, proving you want to be there," Husain Abdullah said. "You can't lose faith, and you have to be confident in yourself."

Joe McKnight was released by the Jets last season, spent a year away, and now is trying to catch on in Kansas City. Brandon Lloyd was cut by the Patriots and is trying to make it with the 49ers, the team that originally drafted him. Fellow wide receiver Derek Hagan spent a year away doing radio work and is trying to earn a job with the Titans.

"I put the same amount of pressure on myself as I did when I was younger," said Lloyd, who dabbled in acting during his hiatus. "There's always been a couple things that I say to myself — not to let the playbook defeat me, to give maximum effort every time and to make the plays."

Danny Lansanah played five games for Green Bay in 2008. After spending time in the UFL, he began working for a rehabilitation program for troubled teens, and had nearly given up on playing in the NFL again. When the Jets called out of the blue last season, he gave it a shot.

It didn't work out in New York, but he was signed by Tampa Bay and appeared in one game last season. Now, he's listed as the Buccaneers' second-team linebacker.

"When I got that second chance, I just made the best of my opportunity. Now I'm here," he said. "I'm just enjoying the game of football, enjoying my teammates. They're all great guys. I'm coming into here and giving my all every day."

Packers defensive tackle Johnny Jolly also made the most of a second chance. After serving a prison term for narcotics possession, he managed to earn a job in training camp after three full seasons away. He started eight times and played in 13 games last season before getting hurt.

Not all comebacks work out nearly as well, though.

After playing for three teams in 2010, former All-Pro wide receiver Randy Moss was out of the league for a year. He came back in 2012 with San Francisco but was hardly the same player, playing in 16 games but catching only 28 passes for 434 yards.

"Truly, it's a case-by-case basis," Chiefs general manager John Dorsey said. "Once you know athletically where they are, can they get to where they were? That's what you have to ask."

"There's so much, 'What-have-you-done-for-me-lately,'" Dorsey said, "but if you're fine with them, you're comfortable with the person, you did the research, then I think that's the ultimate deciding factor. How much does he really have left?"

NFL

Best in the business?

Cardinals DE Campbell tired of being 'underrated'

By BOB BAUM

The Associated Press

GLENDAL, Ariz. — Arizona Cardinals coach Bruce Arians calls Calais Campbell one of the most underrated players in the NFL.

It's a description the big defensive end doesn't really like.

"To me it's a term that you don't want because you'd rather



Campbell

be viewed as one of the best in the game," he said, "but it's nice that if you're not getting the top accolades, at least people know that you're working hard and they recognize you a little bit. So it's better than nothing."

An imposing 6-foot-8 and 300 pounds, Campbell is widely lauded for his talents by coaches and players around the league.

Yet he has never made it to the Pro Bowl, something that Arians says "baffles" him.

One reason is the 3-4 defensive scheme the Cardinals use. That leaves Campbell inside to fight off double teams while others make the play. In the 4-3 system, defensive ends rush the passer and accumulate the kind of sack totals that result in a Pro Bowl invitation.

"When you start getting guys with all the sacks and stuff as rush ends in a 4-3, they're going to get the hype to go to the Pro Bowl," Arians said.

Last year, at least, he was a Pro Bowl alternate.

Campbell toils in the trenches and, as far as responsibilities go, his duties often are nearly the same as a defensive tackle.

"Me and (Darnell) Dockett pretty much do the exact same thing but he is considered a D-tackle and me a D-end," Campbell said, "but that's a good thing because when I got the franchise tag I got the defensive end money."

Campbell spent a mere two months as a franchise player in early 2012 before signing a five-year, \$51 million contract, with \$31 million guaranteed.

The defensive tackle-defensive end confusion even spread to quarterback Carson Palmer, who called Campbell "probably one of the more underrated D-tackles in the league."

By the numbers

9

Sacks accumulated last season by Cardinals DE Calais Campbell, a career high. He also had 27 QB pressures.

58

Tackles by Campbell last season. He also had 8 tackles for a loss, tied for second-most on the team with LB Karlos Dansby.

4

Consecutive seasons in which the versatile Campbell has had at least 50 tackles and six sacks.

6th

Overall rank of the Cardinals' defense last season. Arizona was ranked first in the NFL against the run.

SOURCE: Pro-football-reference.com

In reality, Campbell plays all along the defensive line, depending on what set is employed by defensive coordinator Todd Bowles.

"I move around a lot," he said. "I play nose tackle sometimes ... and even outside on the tight end sometimes."

That versatility is a tribute to Campbell's athleticism, Arians said.

"He's got great extension and length. Also he bats a lot of balls down," the coach said. "It (his height) is an advantage as long as he can bend. Some tall guys can't



ROSS D. FRANKLIN/AP

The Cardinals' Calais Campbell is tired of being known as one of the NFL's most 'underrated' players. Arizona's versatile 3-4 defensive end would prefer to be simply known as one of the best in the game.

bend, they have to stay out on the edge. He can bend so he can play all four positions across the front. His athletic ability allows him to do that."

Campbell was an integral part of a defense that ranked sixth overall and first against the run last season.

"It's a team effort," Campbell said. "It comes down to playing well with your team and motivating the guys around you. The good players make the ones around them better. Those are the guys who really are the top of the game, the ones that go

out there and command double teams and don't get any stats but make the team around them better. The linebackers and other linemen are able to make big-time plays."

Two and a half weeks shy of his 28th birthday, he is in the prime of his career.

Despite the persistent double-teams, Campbell had a career-high nine sacks last season and 58 tackles. His 8 tackles for loss tied for second-most on the team. Campbell also forced a fumble, recovered two fumbles and had 27 quarterback pressures. It was

the fourth straight season he had at least 50 tackles and six sacks.

And, no matter what anyone says, Campbell is a defensive end.

"I've always been a D-end growing up and I feel like a D-end," he said. "I want to compete against the best and I want to be considered the best just from hard work and dedication. Right now there's a lot of good players in this league. It feels good to be amongst them, but when it's all said and done I want to be the best in the game. That's always been the motivation."

SPORTS

Husain Abdullah left football to embark on a pilgrimage two years ago. After catching on with the Chiefs last season, Abdullah is in line to be a starter again.

MCT

UPHILL BATTLE

Players who leave NFL find it hard to return

By DAVE SKRETTA
★★★★★
The Associated Press

Professional football is not a career that encourages sabbaticals. Hundreds of fresh rookies arrive every summer ready to grab a roster spot from any veteran who took a season off. A handful of players — some who took religious missions, others who tried coaching, journalism or acting — are trying to come back this season. “When you get out, it’s so hard to get back in,” said offensive lineman Ryan McKee, one of a handful of players trying to get a second chance in Kansas City. “Really hard.” McKee was so fed up with football after getting cut by the Rams two years ago that he spent last season coaching at North Carolina. When he decided to give the game another chance, he realized that earning a job would be more difficult the second time around. “The NFL really is about once you’re with a club, doing everything you can to stay with that club,” he said. “A

lot of it is timing, staying healthy and making the most out of a chance.” Players who spend a season off a roster are often forgotten. Rookies are easy to find and less expensive than veterans. “You need to give you a legitimate chance,” said Husain Abdullah, who along with his brother Hamza left the NFL two years ago to embark on Hajj, a pilgrimage to Mecca required of all able-bodied Muslims. Husain, who had been starting at safety last season in Kansas City. He started out as a nickel back and on special teams, playing more as the season progressed, and now is in line to be the starting free safety.

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Derek Hagan
AP



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